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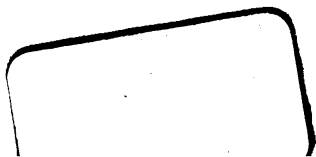
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TRAMP TO THE DIGGINGS:

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BEING

NOTES OF A RAMBLE

IN

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

IN 1852.

By JOHN SHAW, M.D.

F.G.S., F.L.S.

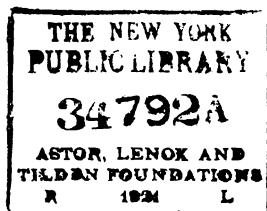
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A

VISIT TO NEW SOUTH WALES,

IN 1851, 1852.

AUSTRALASIA, OR AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALASIA, or Australia, consists of the Continent of New Holland, or Australia, the island of Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land, and the islands of New Zealand.

The Continent of New Holland, or Australia, is 2400 miles from east to west, and 2600 the greatest breadth from north to south, having an area of 3,000,000 square miles. The principal divisions of it are Eastern Australia, or New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and North Australia.

Van Diemen's Land, or Tasmania, about 200

B

miles south of New Holland, contains 24,000 square miles; while New Zealand, 1000 miles to the east of New Holland, has an area of 100,000 square miles.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

New South Wales has been divided as follows:—Moreton Bay District, or Cook's Land, in the north; Sydney District, or New South Wales Proper, in the middle; and Port Phillip District, or Australia Felix, in the south. Hereafter, the northward and middle districts will form New South Wales, and Port Phillip will be raised to an independent colony.

The previous and subsequent geographical descriptions are copied from *Bonwick's Geography for Australian Youth*, which was published in the year 1850. Since then the Port Phillip District has been formed into a separate colony under the name of Victoria.

New South Wales in 1850 extended northward to lat. 26° S., westward to long. 141° E., and eastward and southward to the sea. Its extreme

length was 1100 miles, and breadth 800 miles. Its area was about 500,000 square miles, or 320,000,000 acres, which is equal to the one-eighth part of Europe, and eight times the size of England. Only 180,000 acres are under cultivation, being one forty-thousandth part of the whole. (Its southern boundary dividing it from Victoria, or Port Phillip, will be hereafter the River Murray, and a line drawn from the source of that river to Cape Howe; this separation will reduce its area to 400,000 square miles).

The population in 1849 was about 260,000; of which 50,000 were in Port Phillip. The number of aborigines scattered throughout the country is thought to be below 30,000, and these are rapidly disappearing.

A considerable portion of the land of New South Wales is of inferior quality; yet there are many extensive and beautiful plains which afford excellent pasturage. The country is not so woody and mountainous as Van Diemen's Land, nor is it so well watered. The climate is warm, yet the air is highly salubrious. Hot winds from the

sandy deserts to the west are occasionally troublesome.

The exports of the colony are chiefly wood, tallow, hides, oil, cattle, sheep, gum, maize, butter, and cheese. Most of the tallow is obtained by the boiling down of sheep and cattle. The imports are manufactured goods, wines, spirits, and tobacco, from England, sugar from Mauritius and Manilla, timber and wheat from Tasmania, and wine from the Cape of Good Hope. The government of New South Wales is vested in the hands of a Governor, assisted by the Executive and the elective Legislative Councils. The expense of carrying on the government is defrayed out of the colonial revenue, which, in 1848, amounted to about 395,862*l.* The value of the imports in the same year was 1,566,550*l.*; that of exports 1,830,368*l.*

COOK'S LAND, THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.

This part of New South Wales extends from the Solitary Isles in lat. 30° S. to Wide Bay lat. 26° S., a distance of 300 miles. The popu-

lation is small, but is rapidly increasing. The located portion is called the County of Stanly, and comprehends the districts of Clarence River, Darling Downs, and Moreton Bay. Though the most northern, and therefore the hottest of the Australian settlements, its climate is healthy; it is seldom visited by the hot winds of central Australia, and is well adapted for the growth of sugar, rice, cotton, and tobacco.

The eastern part of Cook's Land is well watered by the Clarence, Richmond, Tweed, Kumera, Logan, Brisbane, Bremer, Condamine, Black Swan, and Wide Bay or Mary Rivers. The mouth of the Clarence in Shoal Bay is 400 miles north of Sydney; it is the largest river of the east coast of Australia. The Logan and Brisbane run into Moreton Bay, the Bremer into the Brisbane. Moreton Bay is sixty miles long by twenty broad, and contains many islands; Spradbroke Island is thirty miles long by five miles broad; Moreton twenty miles by three; Bribie seventeen miles by three. The town of Brisbane stands on the River Brisbane; Ipswich on the Bremer, and Dunwich near the Bay.

A range of hills in long. 152° divides the eastern and western waters. There are also some elevated peaks, as Lindesay, 5700 feet high, at the head of the Logan; Wathing, 3500 feet near, and the Glasshouse Hills north of the Bay. Beyond this dividing range are Dunlop, Normanby, and Peel's Plains, Darling and Canning Downs, and, still further to the west, are Calvert and Fitzroy Downs.

In this extensive region to the westward, are the splendid rivers of the Darling, Condamine, Gwydir, Culgoa, Narran, Balonne, Barrabool, and Maranoa. The Maranoa flows southward into the Balonne; the Balonne divides into the Culgoa, or little Balonne; the latter is divided into the Bokhara, Barabo, and Narran.

The Culgoa, Bokhara, Ballandool, and Gwydir, fall into the Darling near Fort Bourke. The Darling flows from the dividing range into the River Murray, after a course of about 2000 miles. The Narran ends in a swamp.

A penal settlement was established in Moreton Bay in 1824, which was afterwards abandoned. The dugong, or sea-cow, is found in the Bay.

Palms eighty feet high, mangroves, bunyas, zamias, bamboos seventy feet in height, chesnut, silk oak, pines, and native fig trees, abound in this luxuriant and almost tropical climate. The fig is an immense tree; the bunya, which is like the Kauri pine of New Zealand, bears a sort of nut; and the mangrove, which is similar to a thick-leaved laurel, produces a fruit about an inch in diameter.

NEW SOUTH WALES PROPER, OR SYDNEY
DISTRICT.

This province has a sea coast extending from Cape Howe to the Solitary Isles. The length from east to west from the sea to the boundary of South Australia, in long. 141° E., is 700 miles. .

The settled territory, containing about 50,000 square miles, or 32,000,000 acres, is divided into twenty counties. Those to the north are Macquarie, Gloucester, Brisbane, Durham, Bligh, Phillip, Hunter, and Northumberland; those to the west are Wellington, Bathurst, and Georgiana; in the middle are Roxburgh, Cook,

Westmoreland, and Cumberland ; and to the south are Camden, Argyle, St. Vincent, and Murray. The Manaroo Plains separate the new county of Auckland, at Twofold Bay, from the old southern counties.

The districts beyond the boundaries are Wellington, Bligh, Lachlan, Liverpool Plains, Manaroo, Murrumbidgee, Peel's River, M'Leay River, and New England. Manaroo is the most southern, and New England the most northern. The Liverpool Plains are north of Liverpool range. Tumuh District lies between the Murray, Murrumbidgee, and Tumuh Rivers.

Sydney, or Port Jackson, is in lat. 34° S. and long. 151° E., having, in 1849, a population of about 60,000. It is the capital of New South Wales. The two most important towns are Parramatta, fifteen miles from Sydney, and Maitland, on the River Hunter. The chief ports besides Sydney are Carrington, at Port Stephens ; Newcastle, at Port Hunter ; Wollongong, 60 miles south of Sydney ; and Eden and Boyd Town, in Twofold Bay. The other principal townships are Liverpool, 20 miles from Sydney ; Camp-

bell Town, 30; Castlereagh, 30; Emu, 32; Windsor, on the Hawkesbury, 35; Penrith, 40; Richmond, 42; Wilberforce, 45; Mittagong, 70; Berrina, 75; Bong Bong, 80; Bathurst, to the west, 120; Goulbourn, 120; Mudger, to the north, 160; and Yass, to the south-west, 170. The Vale of Clywd is about 60 miles west from Sydney.

Some of the most important towns, as Sydney, Paramatta, Campbell Town, Windsor, and Liverpool, are in the County of Cumberland, which contains 1500 square miles. Wollongong is in the fertile district of Illawarra, or Five Islands, in the Camden County, and so also are Berrina and the Cow-pastures. Lake Bathurst and Goulbourn Plains are in Argyle.

Bathurst County is elevated and healthy. Wellington Valley is to the north-west of Sydney. The coal district of Newcastle, in Hunter County, belongs to the Australian Agricultural Company, which possesses 500,000 acres in the neighbourhood of Port Stephens. The chief ranges of hills are the Australian Alps, or Snowy Mountains, the highest point of which,

Kosciusko, is 6500 feet high ; the Blue Mountains, running forty miles from the coast through the settled districts, at an elevation of 3000 to 4000 feet ; the Liverpool range, to the north-east, with peaks 5000 feet ; the New Year's range, north of the Liverpool range ; the Hardwicke, between the Peel and Gwydir Rivers ; the Dividing to the north ; and the Mittagong terminating at Illawarra.

The principal independent mountains are, Canobolas, near Buree, 4500 feet ; Dromedary, to the south, 3,000 ; Hay, near the Vale of Clwyd ; Imlay, near Twofold Bay ; Wingen, the Smoky Mountain, and Lyell and Babbage, near the Darling. Oxley's Table Land is near Fort Bourke.

New South Wales is not generally well watered, but it contains some most magnificent rivers. The Darling, which flows into the Murray, is known to receive no tributary stream for 660 miles. The Murray, which forms the boundary between New South Wales and Port Phillip, or Victoria, is 1200 miles long. It rises near Mount Kosciusko, and falls into the sea at Encounter

Bay, South Australia. The Murrumbidgee, 900 miles long, rises near the source of the Murray, and flows into that river near the western boundary; it has no branch for 400 miles. The Tumut is a branch of the Murrumbidgee. The Lachlan, 700 miles long, after a westerly course, joins the Murrumbidgee. The Yanko-Yanko, Billebong, Edward Logan, and Wakool Rivers, are in the Tumut district. The following rivers run northward into the Darling: the Bogan, or New Year River, 250 miles long, and the Macquarie, 400, with its branches, the Mammoy or Peel, Castlereagh, Erskine, and Cudgegong. The Bogan proceeds from Wellington Valley; the Macquarie from near Bathurst; and the Peel and Castlereagh from the Liverpool range.

The eastern waters of New South Wales Proper, are the M'Leay into Trial Bay, the Hastings into Port Macquarie, Manning into the Farquhar inlet; Karua into Port Stephens; Hunter into Port Hunter; Goulbourn into the Hunter; Hawkesbury, which is formed of the union of the Nepean and the Grose, into Broken Bay; the Wollondelly, Colo, and Macdonalds, into

the Hawkesbury; Clyde into Batman Bay, and Towamba into Twofold Bay. The Shoalhaven flows from the Manaroo Plains.

Lake George is to the southward of the settled districts; Illawarra to the east; and Wallis, Myall, Macquarie, and Tuggerah Beach lakes are to the north-east.

The principal bays are Trial Bay, in lat. 31° ; Port Macquarie, Port Stephens, Port Hunter, Broken Bay, Port Jackson, lat. 34° . Botany Bay, a little southward of Port Jackson; Port Hocking, Shoal Haven, Jervis Bay, Sussex Haven, Balman Bay, and Twofold Bay, 200 miles south of Sydney.

The most prominent capes are Smoky Cape, Sugar-loaf Point, Point Stephens, north and south heads of Port Jackson, Banks and Solander Capes by Botany Bay, Point, Perpendicular and George Capes by Jervis Bay, Green Cape and Cape Howe, the south-east extremity of New Holland.

There are a few islands off the east coast, as the Solitary Isles, the five islands of Illawarra, Bowen Isles, and Montague Islands. Norfolk

Island which is 900 miles to the east of New South Wales, is placed under the government of Van Diemen's Land.

New South Wales was discovered and named by Captain Cook in the ship *Endeavour*, April 19th, 1770. Mr. Bass discovered Twofold Bay in 1797; and Captain Flinders discovered Shoal Bay and Moreton Bay in 1799.

The principal explorers of the country have been Mr. Oxley, Captain Sturt, and Sir Thomas Mitchell. Mr. Oxley discovered Moreton Bay District, and Capt. Sturt the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, and Darling rivers; and Sir Thomas Mitchell the Upper Darling, the Bogan, Balonne, &c.

The several governors and the times of their arrival are as follows: Captain Phillip, 1788; Captain Hunter, 1795; Captain King, 1800; Captain Bligh, 1806; General Macquarie, 1810; General Sir Thomas Brisbane, 1821; General Darling, 1825; General Sir Richard Bourke, 1831; Sir George Gipps, 1838; Sir Charles Fitzroy, 1846.

New South Wales is generally a sandstone country, though basalt, greenstone, and granite

are found in the interior. The coal of Newcastle is highly bituminous and useful for the production of gas and the service of steam-vessels.

Most of the trees are evergreen. There are about 100 species of the Eucalypti family, as the gum and stringy bark, and a large number of the Acacia, as wattle. The principal other trees are, the forest, silk and other oaks; the lightwood, tulip tree, grass tree, pine, zamia, mangrove, corrijong, nettle tree, rosewood, cedar, ebony, iron-bark, Banksia or native honeysuckle, and palm.

The gigantic lily grows to the height of twenty-five feet, the cabbage palm to eighty feet, and the pine to 200 feet. The Eucalypti are so called from the bud covering the blossom, and which falls off when the flower expands. Most of the New Holland trees shed their bark instead of their leaves. The wild flowers, especially the waratah, are very beautiful.

The most common wild animals are the kangaroo, opossum, wombat, dingo or wild dog, porcupine, ant-eater, jerboa, bandicoot, flying squirrel, native bear, duck-billed platypus and emu. The

fossil quadrupeds are all marsupial or pouch-bearing. Some fossil bones have been found of kangaroos as large as an elephant. Some of the birds of the colony, as the parrot, pigeon, and satin-bird, are of splendid colours. There are not many species of insects. Snakes and lizards are numerous.

The climate of New South Wales is warmer than that of Van Diemen's Land; the sandy character of the soil, and the comparatively leafless vegetation, tend to make it drier also. From excess of evaporation, there is less dew than in the southern island. The sky is remarkably clear. The quantity of rain annually falling at Port Macquarie is sixty-three inches, and in Sydney fifty; whilst in London it is only twenty-six; and in Hobart Town twenty-four. The hot winds proceed from the sandy desert of Central Australia.

ABORIGINES OF NEW HOLLAND.

“ It has been customary among some writers to dignify the Australian natives by the appellation of ‘human monkeys,’ and to describe them as not being possessed of the common intellect and almost common feelings of humanity. But though by their position they have been long isolated from the civilised world, yet they are not utterly lost to thought and sentiment. It is a fact, however, that they make but slow progress in their knowledge of Christianity ; yet the means employed for their conversion has not generally been happily directed. . . . Their own notions upon religion are so exceedingly vague, that they may be said scarcely to have an opinion upon it : no forms of worship have been observed among them. Successful efforts have been made, however, in the training of children at the institution of Merrie Creek, near Melbourne. But though they may be considered below many aborigines of the world in their power of appreciating religious truth, yet, in all other respects, they exhibit considerable intelligence. It is true that they do

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not build such houses and canoes as the New Zealanders, nor do they weave cloth like the South Sea Islanders; for their habits being migratory, from the nature of their food and country, it would be absurd for them to erect substantial dwellings: however, whenever the means of subsistence are at hand, they are always observed to have comfortable places of abode, and those suitable to the climate. Being well provided with the skins of animals, they have no need of manufactures for clothing. As shepherds, hut-keepers, and police, many of them have been advantageously employed; but their love for a roaming life, and the calls of their tribe, prevent them from permanently leading a civilised life."

The opinions of enlightened travellers who have spent much time among them are entitled to more respect than those of casual observers; or of some ignorant and cruel settlers who have sought only the destruction of these original occupants of the soil. Sir Thomas Mitchell, in speaking of them, says, "They are never awkward; on the contrary, in manner and general intelligence, they appear superior to any class of

white rustics that I have seen." Dr. Leichardt also bears honourable testimony to the same effect. The naturalist of H.M.S. *Fly* declares that "the Australian intellect is deficient in reflective and inventive faculties, in the capacity for forming abstract ideas and reasoning upon them. In all objects of sense they are quick at receiving, and tenacious in retaining, instruction."

Sir George Grey, now Governor of New Zealand, remarks of the Australian aborigines: "They are as apt and as intelligent as any other race of men I am acquainted with; they are subject to the same affections, appetites, and passions as other men." In their natural state, they are described as living in comfort and plenty. They hunt in the day, and the corrobory in the evening before their wives and children, afford that stimulus to the exercise of mental and corporeal powers which is ever a source of health and enjoyment. The principal kind of food are kangaroos, opossums, ducks, geese, emus and other birds, fish, seals, turtles, shell-fish, grubs, eggs, fruit, seeds and roots. Some of them bake fish in bark dishes, and turtles in one of their shells, in order to

preserve the gravy; the repast is pronounced delicious. There are certain articles of food of which the females may not eat; some of which unmarried men may not eat; and others which are reserved for the taste of old men—the honoured of the tribe. Neither suicides nor cases of madness are known to take place. The natives are divided into great families as well as into tribes. A man succeeds to the wife and property of his deceased brother. Females are betrothed in childhood. For small offences the punishment of spearing the thigh is inflicted. The weapons in use amongst them are the spear, with the throwing-stick, the *waddle* or club, and the boomerang or *rileg* for throwing at birds. The boomerang is supposed to have been used by the ancient Egyptians and Greeks, and appears the sole surviving token of the primitive origin and civilisation of the aborigines.

Some tribes knock out one or two front teeth of their young men. Those in the neighbourhood of Cape York wear as an ornament a white piece of wood in their nostrils. Those near the River Wickham, on the east coast, wear cockatoo

feathers in their hair, and, like many other tribes, add to their supposed beauty by having on their persons bands of white and red paint. In North Australia, and by the Bight, on the south of New Holland, circumcision is practised. Throughout the continent, it is customary to raise cicatrices or scars on their bodies with sharp stones.

Their treatment of the dead differs in different tribes: some simply inter the body, others burn it, while in the north they carry it in an envelope of the paper-like bark of the tea-tree, and deposit it in a hollow tree until the skeleton only remains, which they afterwards convey to the burial-place of the tribe; the bones of the dugong are often mixed with human bones in their funeral piles. The graves in Western Australia are always placed east and west. When first the Europeans came amongst them, the aborigines imagined they were the embodied souls of their ancestors and deceased friends. The physical appearance of the Australian aborigines alters somewhat according to the character of their food, and the facility with which it is obtained. The natives of North and

North-Western Australia, and those in the neighbourhood of Cooper's Creek, are taller, more robust, and handsomer, than those of the less-favoured districts. Generally, the natives of New Holland have dark brown skins, large eyes, massive foreheads, broad noses, wide mouths, short lower jaws, large white teeth, and long sinewy limbs; their hair is not woolly like those of Van Diemen's Land, though Dampier speaks of seeing some on the north-west coast of Australia with woolly hair. The inhabitants of the islands inside the Great Barrier Reefs, and also those to the north of Cape York, wear wigs. The children are described as laughing, happy creatures; they often depend upon their mothers' milk till they are three or four years old. There is no want of parental affection. Cases of infanticide do not appear to have taken place among the natives until the arrival of the white man, who has stolen their lands and killed or driven away the animals upon which they subsisted. The half-caste is, in most instances, put to death. The language of the Australians is one of considerable beauty and regularity;

many nouns and most verbs end in vowels. There are not yet sufficient means of determining the relation of the several dialects. The natives of the Darling could not comprehend the language of those inhabiting the banks of the Wariego and Victoria. There is a remarkable circumstance which tends continually to produce alterations in their unwritten tongue. Whenever a native dies, his name ceases to be mentioned in any way in the tribe; if, therefore, it should be the appellation of some common object, a new word is created by which that object is in future known.

The feeble efforts to do good among the natives are not to be compared with the evils resulting from association with the powerful strangers. Vices and diseases of which they were formerly ignorant, have fearfully diminished their numbers; and their conflicts with the invaders of their territory have, in many parts, ended in their extermination. Another circumstance which tends to shorten the duration of this race in the civilised districts, is that so few children are born among them; for,

among twenty-one tribes of 420 aborigines, in the western part of Port Phillip, there were but ten surviving children born in three years. It must also be noticed that wars have been more frequent of late, owing to the trespass of one tribe upon the hunting-ground of another, as the white man advances into the country.

In a few years only a miserable remnant of them will exist. The conservatism of their own laws and customs operates as a powerful barrier to their advancement in civilisation—as the laws and customs of the intelligent Hindoos prevent their reception of the benign doctrines of Christianity. Mr. Westgarth declares that “the Australian native refuses to advance.” Count Strezlecki has the following observations upon the subject:—“Amidst the wreck of schemes there remains one to be adopted for the benefit of the aborigines—to listen and attend to the last wishes of the departed, and to the voice of the remaining few. ‘Leave us to our habits and customs; do not embitter the days that are yet in store for us by constraining us to obey yours, nor reproach us with

apathy to that civilisation which is not destined for us: our fields and forests, which once furnished us with abundance of animal and vegetable food, now yield us no more; they and their produce are yours. You prosper on our native soil, and we are famishing.' "

The colony of New South Wales was first established as a penal settlement in 1788, under Governor Phillip, who arrived with 1030 persons, 700 of whom were prisoners, in the ships *Sirius* and *Supply*. Captain Cook had recommended that the settlement should be made at Botany Bay, so called from the number of plants found there by Dr. Solander, of the expedition; but Captain Phillip, not approving of the locality, entered a beautiful harbour a little to the north of the bay, which had been named by Captain Cook, Port Jackson, from the sailor who first discovered it from the mast-head. The camp, as it was called, was formed at Sydney, in Port Jackson, Jan. 26th, 1788. The public stock consisted of two bulls, four cows, and seven horses. Owing to the loss of the *Guardian*, store-ship, in the following year, the infant

colony was reduced to great extremities of famine for three years. A number of prisoners were sent off to the neighbouring Norfolk Island. Some convicts absconded, with the view of making their way by land to China. For some years the principal currency of the colony was in rum. Many evils arose from the low tone of morals then existing.

When free persons were permitted to emigrate to New South Wales, it was for a time the law that any of them who would engage to keep convict servants, should be allowed a grant of 100 acres of land for each so retained.

In 1810, there was another season of scarcity, arising from the overflowing of the Hawkesbury, on the banks of which was the principal agricultural district of the colony. Since then the country has rapidly progressed in wealth, moral standing, and political importance, especially since the cessation of transportation, in 1840. The exports have been gradually increasing, and the imports decreasing. In 1810, there were 25,000 sheep, and the export of wool was 167 lb. In 1813, a passage was

opened across the Blue Mountains to the extensive plains to the westward. In 1849, the number of sheep had increased to nearly seven millions, exclusive of almost as large a number on the fertile plains of Port Phillip.

NEW ZEALAND.

THIS colony is situated about 1000 miles to the eastward of New South Wales, and contains an area of 125,000 square miles. It consists of three islands: the northern, or Ea-heinomaive, 500 miles long; the middle, or Te-wai Pounamu, that is, the "island having the greenstone," 550 miles long; and the southern, or Stewart Island, 50 miles long.

The British population is about 27,000; the Maories, or natives in the northern island, amount probably to 80,000; and in the middle island, perhaps, to 5000.

New Zealand has a moister climate than Tasmania or New Holland; and has, therefore, greater luxuriance of vegetation. The mean

temperature of Auckland is 60° , and Wellington 58° . The soil is in many parts very favourable to agricultural purposes.

The colony is now divided into two provinces, the Northern or New Ulster, and the Southern or New Munster. New Ulster embraces the County of Eden, or parish of Waitemata, Wanganui District, Kaipara District, Kawau Island, Great Barrier Island, and the County of Bedford, or Bay of Islands.

New Munster, the southern province, consists of the southern part of the northern island, and the located portions of the middle and southern islands, containing the districts of Port Nicholson, Wanganui, Taranaki or New Plymouth, Nelson, Bank's Peninsula, and Otago District.

The capital of New Ulster is Auckland, in lat. 37° S., long. $174\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ E., standing upon the southern shore of Waitemata, in the Frith of Thames; the town and district contain a population of 10,000. The capital of New Munster is Wellington, lat. $41\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ S., long. $174\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ E., situated on Port Nicholson, in Cook's Straits; with a population of 5000. Wellington is between 500

and 600 miles from Auckland, and 120 miles from Nelson. The principal settlements in the northern island beside Auckland and Wellington, are Russel, Pahia, and Kororarika in the Bay of Islands, the Waimate, or Deadwater, near the bay, Hokionga to the north-west, Taranaki or New Plymouth on the west coast near Mount Egmont, and Wanganui or Large Bay, Wairarapa, Otaki, and Manawatua in Cook's Strait. Beside these there are several small locations of soldier pensioners from England, situated near Auckland.

The settlements of the middle island are Nelson, 4000 inhabitants, in the same latitude as Wellington; Cloudy Bay and Port Underwood in the Strait; Akaroa, the French location, on Bank's Peninsula; New Canterbury, or Church of England Settlement, near Port Cooper on Bank's Peninsula; and Otakou, or Otago, the Free Church of Scotland Settlement in the Otago District.

No regular chain of mountains runs through the northern island, but a lofty range extends through the middle island, which has peaks always covered with snow. Mount Arthur, near Nelson,

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is 8000 feet; Edgecumbe, by the Bay of Plenty, 10,000 feet; Ruapahu 9000 feet; and Tongariro, south of Lake Taupo, 6500 feet. Hikurangi is in the valley of the Waiapu, the Rua-Hine range is in the centre of Ulster, and the Tara-Rua and the Kimutaka ranges are to the north of Port Nicholson.

The country abounds in rivers, but those on the western side of the northern island have sand-bars at their entrance. The largest in the northern island are the Waikato, 250 miles long; the Waipa, 200 miles; Wairoa, or Long-water, 200 miles; Hokianga, Thames or Waiho, Kiri-Kiri, Hutt, Wanganui, Wangaihu, Waiwakaiia or Canoe River, and Wairarapa. Those of the middle island are the Molyneux in the Otago District, Maitai near Nelson, and Wairau, which falls into Cloudy Bay.

The Waikato flows from Lake Taupo, and falls into Waikato Harbour; the Waipa is its tributary. The Wairoa falls into Kaipara Harbour; the Hokianga into Hokianga Harbour; the Thames into the Frith of Thames; the Hutt into Port Nicholson; the Wanganui and Wangaihu into

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Cook's Strait; Wairarapa into Palliser Bay; and the Waiwakaia runs from Mount Egmont to the sea near New Plymouth.

Several of the lakes were originally the craters of volcanoes. Taupo, in the centre of the northern island, is 36 miles long by 20 broad. Roto-Kua, or Two Lakes, is 24 miles round. There are also Rotoiti, or Small Lake; and Roto-mahana, or Warm Lake. Many sulphurous and hot springs exist near Rotorua. Wihola Lake, in the middle island, is 50 miles long; and several lakes in Otago District are from 12 to 15 miles long.

The waterfall of Kiri-Kiri is 95 feet deep, and 60 feet wide; and that of Waiani-waniwa, or Waters of the Rainbow, is 70 feet deep, and 50 wide.

The chief bays and harbours in the northern island are Wangaroa Harbour, Bay of Islands, Frith of Thames, Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, and Hawke's Bay, on the east; Hokianga, Kaipara and Waikato Harbours, and Port Elliot, on the west; Port Nicholson and Palliser Bay, on the south. Those of the middle island are Blind, or Tasman's Bay, Massacre Bay, Admiralty Bay, Port Gore, Queen Charlotte's Sound, Cloudy

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Bay, and Port Underwood, on the north; Open Bay, Milford Haven, Doubtful Harbour, Dusky Bay, and Chalky Bay, on the west; Pegasus Bay, Akaroa Harbour, Port Cooper in Bank's Peninsula, and Port Otago, on the east. Port Pegasus is in Stewart's Island.

The chief capes in the northern island are North Cape and Maria Van Diemen, on the north; Brett, Colville, East Cape, Table, and Kidnapper Head, on the east coast; Egmont, on the west; and Palliser and Sinclair Head, to the south.

Those of the middle island are Farewell, Jackson, and Campbell, on the north; Rocky and Cascade Points, on the west; and Saunders, near Otakou, on the east. South Cape is in the southern island.

Cook's Strait is between the northern and middle islands; it is 100 miles wide at the northern extremity, and 50 miles at the southern. Faveaux Strait, between the middle and southern islands, is 40 miles long and 10 miles broad.

The islands off the coast are few. The Three Kings are to the north of the North Cape; the

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Cavelles are near the Bay of Islands; Barrier is at the entrance of the Frith of Thames; the Volcanic, White Island, and Meyers, are in the Bay of Plenty; and Kapiti or Entry, and D'Urville, are in Cook's Strait.

The Chatham Isles are 800 miles east of the middle island. The Lord Auckland Isles are to the south of Stewart's Isle. A British colony has been established about three years since in the Auckland Isles. Mr. Enderby, the founder of the settlement of whalers, is the Lieutenant-Governor. The Judge, Macquarie Isles, and the Bishop and his Clerk, are south of the Auckland.

The exports of New Zealand consist of the native flax, for which there is always a ready demand in Australia, for the purpose of wool-lashing; timber, Kauri gum, wool, oil, whale-bone, manganese, copper and sulphur.

Tasman, the Dutch discoverer of Van Diemen's Land, came to the shores of New Zealand, December 18th, 1642.

Zealand is the name of one of the provinces of Holland.

Captain Cook took possession of the country

in the name of King George III., on November 15th, 1769. He paid a second visit in 1773.

Runaway sailors and convicts were the first European inhabitants ; afterwards came the enterprising missionaries ; and the land was then proclaimed a dependency of New South Wales. A British resident was appointed in 1833 ; and in May, 1841, it was, by authority, pronounced a colony of the British Empire.

The middle island was placed under the sovereignty of England only two days before the arrival of a French frigate at Akaroa, which was to have assisted the claims of France.

ABORIGINES.

The natives, who call themselves Maories, were formerly much more numerous than now. In the time of Captain Cook, the population is thought to have been half a million ; but exterminating wars and raging epidemic diseases have reduced them to a quarter of that number. Up to a recent period, their intercourse with white men proved as destructive to their morals as their health. Now, however, being, by the praise-

worthy agency of the missionaries, in most instances, converted to Christianity, being placed under the care of protectors appointed by the Government, and being brought in contact with a better class of settlers, they are more comfortable and happy. The discussions between them and the colonists have resulted wholly from the interference of the British Government with the interests of the natives in their lands, and not from any unwillingness, on their parts, to have Englishmen residing among them. There is, however, a strong desire manifested to treat this intelligent and high-spirited people with justice and kindness.

As aborigines they are, perhaps, superior to any in the world. Their *pahs*, or villages, are regularly fortified. The readiness with which they fall into the habits of civilised life is very striking. They make excellent seamen and mechanics; and in the settlements they dispose of the produce they raise. Many of them are possessed of property in farms and trading vessels, and have considerable sums in the savings' banks.

Though heathens, the New Zealanders were

never worshippers of idols. They thought that the spirits of the dead passed to the Parengarenga, near North Cape, and thence into the sea, to the region of the blest. The *tabu*, or sacred prohibition of the use or injury of certain objects, exists among them, as among other Malayan races of the South Seas. One curious effect of this custom occurs in the arbitrary tabuing of certain words. The natives appear always to have held slaves, who were chiefly captives taken in war.

Like the ancient Jews, they used to shave their heads and cut their bodies in mourning for deceased friends. When first visited by Captain Cook, they were found living in well-constructed houses, amply provided with food and rich clothing, possessed of splendid canoes, but sadly addicted to cannibalism. They had then a knowledge of eight points of the compass. They reckoned thirteen months to the year, and were acquainted with numbers to a considerable extent. Great resemblance has been detected between their manners and language and those of the Sandwich Islanders. By their traditions, it

would appear that a part of a great fleet from Hawaii got driven to New Zealand, which had previously been fished up from the bottom of the ocean by one of their gods. Some persons have considered that there are two races among them ; one the regular Maori, and the other an inferior and dark-skinned people, supposed to be the aborigines of the islands.

SYDNEY.

PROBABLY no town is so little known to the mass of English people as Sydney, and the country of which it is the capital. Although every daily paper gives notice of a number of ships leaving England for that port, still that circumstance has not enlightened the general reader, for sea captains are very bad observers on land, and talk but little of their trips on their return to England. In this wonderful age of electric telegraphs, and of railroads, it might appear to some minds that the invention of printing did not fully benefit mankind until

the grains of knowledge were planted in every soil and in every country by the invention of steam. The tree of knowledge, to become a common plant bearing sound fruit, required the inventions of Watt and Stephenson. If this account of New South Wales and New Zealand should be the means of removing old prejudices against those countries, of opening the eyes of the needy and industrious poor at home, anxious to seek a better locality than their native home for a permanent resting-place—the author of this will feel gratified in having contributed his mite of information to the great mountain of knowledge already amassed in this wonderful age in which we live. The ignorance in England a few years since, in regard to our colonies and colonial matters, with the exception of merchants trading to them, and the Colonial Office governing them, had almost become proverbial; and I question much if the Colonial Office possessed too much wisdom upon the subject; indeed, several rich anecdotes might be told to prove the contrary.

STATE OF THE COLONY IN 1850.

It will be necessary here to inform the reader that the grand export of New South Wales is wool. The method of grazing sheep differs in a most striking manner from that of England. The wool-grower, or sheep-owner, does not join farming and grazing together in some beautiful valley or fertile plain in the settled districts near roads or towns ; but chooses his home in the wild uncultivated and unsettled parts beyond the boundaries of the twenty counties enumerated in the geographical description previously given. These wool-growers are called squatters. Some of them own from 50,000 to 100,000 sheep ; many of them are the sons of gentlemen, and some of them connected with the aristocracy of England. In these wild districts it is no unusual thing for a squatter to be distant twenty miles from his nearest neighbour.

Some of their largest runs are equal in size to the County of Kent. These downs, or sheep districts, consist of native grasses mixed up with the wild scrub and bush of the country unassisted

by artificial cultivation. Since that unfortunate period (the panic) things have been gradually getting better, until the disastrous years of 1847 and 1848 in England contributed to throw the squatters back again by pulling down the price of their great export, wool. Mr. Bland, a medical gentleman of some standing in Sydney, and a member of the Legislative Council, has published a letter on the distressed state of the country in 1850, from which I shall now quote several passages.

“Up to 1839, and for some time afterwards, with only two English banks, and one or two English insurance offices, we ourselves had four banks, and four extensive insurance companies of our own—the dividends from which were almost exclusively ours, and spent accordingly by ourselves for our own use, in our commerce and on internal improvements.

“On the contrary, we now possess only two banks, and two insurance companies, and these in a comparatively most depressed state; while the two English banks, though sustained principally with our own money, are in extensive

operation, with, I believe, two English insurance companies (supported obviously by the self-same means): and the great bulk of our real property is mortgaged to three English money companies; viz., the Trust, the Loan, and the Scotch Company—two, at least, of which were first established here in 1839 and 1840,—who exact from eight to ten and twelve-and-a-half per cent. interest and upwards. And thus are we now (and have been long since) transacting all kinds of business nominally and essentially with foreign capital (but which, as far at least as the banks are concerned, is for the most part our own); and for which, in addition to other contingent expenses, we are taxed as above: and worse than all, the dividends from which capital are continually flowing from the colony—to be expended abroad, for the mere benefit of strangers; while much of our private rents (the property of absentees), and the whole of our public rents, together with the proceeds of our government land sales, are abstracted from our shores.

“Although this colony is about 16,000 miles from home, and has been planted upwards

of sixty years, (infinitely more than full time for its establishment,) we are to this day without one university, college, or public school; while the few establishments of this description which some years since we were endeavouring to raise, have almost totally disappeared; and even the Sydney College, the oldest and most prominent among these, has of late, solely from want of funds, dwindled from a highly promising institution, with upwards of 270 students, into a state of mere safe abeyance with about fifty boys.

“ Our roads, for the most part, are wretched; and we are without one railroad, though we ought, if for the sake of mere economy, to have been long ago amply furnished with the former—and with the latter, if only from our want of river communication, at least ten years since, up to which time we were possessed of an abundance of capital of our own for their construction, as well as for importing all the labour that would be required for that purpose.

“ Our towns and cities are almost without drains, totally without sewers, and Sydney itself,

with its 50,000 inhabitants (a population of consumers rather than producers, and double that of London in proportion to our entire population), is without water sufficient for our existing wants, still less for the increasing daily demand, or to obviate an occasional slight drought—such as that of which we now feel the effects.

“We have less rural and other labour than ten years since, with a population more than doubled, and an infinitely larger proportion of employers.

“Our whaling, about ten years ago one of the most important and promising branches of our productive industry, has disappeared, while our almost only remaining staple, wool—though infinitely less in quantity than half what it ought to be, notwithstanding some almost unavoidable annual increase, and the most extraordinary means which have been adopted for its support, is not only as to quantity, but still more as to quality, in a most unsatisfactory state, and its produces have fallen, since the very introduction of these self-same imaginary props, from a state of general affluence and rapid

progress, into one of precarious dependence or actual insolvency.

“ Although not strictly connected with the above matters, yet its general importance, with its obvious close connexion with our want of roads, and the excessive overpeopling of our towns, may be admitted as an apology for my adding the fact, that we are almost wholly without small freeholds, to the introduction of which our government land systems, at least for the last thirty years, have been diametrically opposed.

“ Having enumerated some of the chief elements of our present state, with some of its more prominent actual effects, I would now proceed to mention and remark upon the only two measures which appear to have been hitherto proposed as remedies.

“ The first of these measures I presume to be the proposed reduction of the existing drain of our Land Fund from the colony, from the whole of it as heretofore, to one half. This remedy is obviously inadequate to its object; for although at Adelaide a change has been operated in the public mind, and the inhabitants have but the

other day suggested for themselves precisely the same measure, and no more—it should be borne in mind that that province has never felt the full loss of her Land Fund as we have. Her public debts having been long since defrayed by the parent country, and thus the outlay of her Land Fund infinitely more than reimbursed—while the richness of her mines, a discovery of late years, may possibly enable her to bear an amount of financial drainage which no colony could do without some such special advantage.* I need hardly, after the above remarks, repeat what I have so long and so often urged, that in our own case no part of the Land Fund should be abstracted from the colony, but that the whole of it should be strictly devoted to its legitimate purposes, its internal improvements. We have no more time to lose, and I therefore beg to be permitted to urge the earliest possible adoption of this measure, which may then not only prevent much impending mischief, but, in conjunction with another measure that I am about to suggest,

* Interest, however, at Adelaide ranges, I am informed, from 15 to 20 per cent, and is for the most part at the latter figure.

in the consideration of the second remedial measure proposed by the home Government, may enable this colony to regain its lost position of unparalleled prosperity and promise, and to take its stand as a rival to California herself—the centre of almost universal attraction, especially from our shores—while it may enable her, from the immense advantages of her position and her peculiar internal resources, to compete, and that most triumphantly, both in trade and otherwise, with the other States of the American Union, more particularly the Southern States of that already powerful community.

“ The second remedial measure, the revival of transportation, is now proposed at home, not only as an important economical measure, and one, in various other respects, of extensive relief and general benefit to England herself, but which may be also rendered a gain highly advantageous to her colonies, while it is expected that it will be, as it had proved hitherto, highly reformatory, and in other respects beneficial to those who would become subjected to it. With its capability to produce all these very important

effects, I am as fully as ever impressed ; though I am equally convinced that it cannot produce any one of them ; but on the contrary, in respect to our colonies, nothing but almost unmitigated mischief, if it is to be carried out as it appears to be at present contemplated,—*i. e.*, reft of the assignment system, or of something, if possible, equivalent to it, and of the imperial expenditure in the colony, connected as heretofore with that system.

“ If transportation is to be revived, let it, in the first place, therefore, I beg to repeat, be accompanied with assignment, and that with as little loss of time as possible ; and secondly, with the usual imperial expenditure in the colony on the penal establishments, and the additional military and police force, which, as formerly, that system would again render necessary.

“ I beg to be permitted still more strongly to urge the necessity of this measure, because I am of opinion that its omission would be unjust in every point of view (for reasons which it may, perhaps, be unnecessary to repeat here) to our community generally ; and further, because even

with its adoption the net pecuniary saving to the parent country—from the revival of the Transportation System, with all its great essentials, as it existed at the time of its abolition—would be, exclusively of its obvious general advantages to England, of a social, commercial, and political character, immense; while that saving or gain would, in the present instance, be immeasurably enhanced—as I have shown elsewhere—by one becoming not only as formerly the custodian and employer of the vast bulk of the criminals of Great Britain, but the employer as well as the recipient of her surplus free population also, almost exclusively under due arrangement, for the benefit of her commerce, and hence for the increased employment of her people at home.

“I am aware of the possible objection to this suggestion—that England is bound, under her existing difficulties, to observe the strictest economy; and even, whatever the result, to retrench to the utmost. My reply is, that especially in the large affairs of empires, economy and justice, in the long course of events, are inseparable. That we ask no more now than we

have always claimed and enjoyed—and no more than the British Government have always admitted to be right. That the system, as adopted formerly, worked admirably, both in respect to England and to those who were immediately the objects of it, and to this colony, and to those, whether labourers or others, who emigrated to it; that therefore, as a matter of established sound policy and justice, it should be again adopted.”

Probably no country in Europe at any period of its history was ever subject to such sudden commercial and pecuniary changes as New South Wales. Its history during the last twelve years, beginning with the panic of 1839, which terminated some time about 1842, will furnish examples of fortunes lost and gained more rapidly than in any other country; and instances might be quoted where individuals have not only gained a fortune once and lost it during the above period, but have suffered these changes in such fitful variety as not to be inaptly compared to a vessel in troubled waters.

During the panic of 1839 and 1840 horses fell from 60*l.* and 100*l.* as low as 10*l.* and 5*l.*; sheep

from 3*l.* to as many shillings. The most fearful speculations were readily entered into prior to the panic. Private bills were drawn to an immense amount, and discounted by the banks; the banks were equally imprudent and reckless in lending money upon bad securities; and the commencement of the new colony of South Australia (capital Adelaide) at that time upon the Wakefield system, tended not a little to cause every article of consumption and export to rise in value to an unnatural height; land speculators in the new colony bought at twice their value; in the middle of this artificial prosperity the bank became suspicious, and refused to discount bills; credit was destroyed, and down came the panic with all its disastrous consequences.

Mr. Bland's letter, from which I have made several extracts, was written January 11th, 1850, and addressed to his Excellency, Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales, upon the financial state of the colony. A *Produce Circular* issued by Messrs. Mort and Brown, merchants and auctioneers, at Sydney, bearing the date of November 1st, 1851,

I think will be sufficiently instructive as to the sudden turn to prosperity which had then taken place ; and not only at the date of its publication but even at the period of November 1st, 1850, being only nine months after the publication of Mr. Bland's letter. I shall copy almost the whole of the circular.

" PRODUCE CIRCULAR.

" Sydney, Nov. 1st, 1851.

" At the period of issuing our circular of last year the pastoral interests of the colony were in an unusually flourishing condition, and trade generally in a very healthy state. As the British wool-market continued to advance, and as great hopes were entertained of its receiving a fresh impetus from the 'Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations,' our country prospects improved in general estimation ; and there appeared every reason to hope that fresh sources of industry would soon be opened out in the increased culture of the vine, in the growth of cotton, and by the introduction of alpaca.

" These favourable prospects existed until the

middle of May, at which period our whole community was startled by the disclosure of the Australian Gold Fields! when many, even amongst the most intelligent of our colonists, imagined at the moment that gold-digging would prove so permanently attractive as almost to annihilate other industrial pursuits; and that our flocks would perish in the wilderness from want of the necessary labour to protect them. Happily, however, the panic speedily passed away, and although our stockholders have not come altogether unscathed from the ordeal, and the other pursuits alluded to have been procrastinated,—although the number of diggings and diggers are rapidly augmenting—there remains no cause for flockholders to dread anything beyond some little temporary inconvenience.

“Various have been the speculations put forth as to what will be the result to the colony of this discovery, when the intelligence thereof reaches Europe, amongst which have been some most extravagant expectations. That it will create a considerable accession to our population, hasten steam intercourse with Great Britain, and direct

more general attention towards us, is most probable; but whether hereafter it may not produce those baneful results which discoveries of the precious metals have elsewhere done; viz., of dis-using a population to the steady industry of ordinary pursuits, is an important question; and although we may startle the visitors to the Palace of Crystal by exhibiting our dust and nuggets, to compensate for our previous miserable display there, yet the reflection naturally suggests itself as to how long the gold discovery may not have postponed that time when we might have been competitors at future similar exhibitions, in the production of the useful arts! We must, however, admit that we have no precedent in history of the discovery of large gold-fields in the midst of an organised, civilised, and free community. The riches of Peru, which attracted the rapacity of Spanish adventurers; the mines of the Ural, worked for the autocrat of the Russias; and even the development of the diggings of California, differ in circumstances most essentially from ours. We, therefore, have reason to hope that the evils alluded to will not ensue here;

indeed, the general good order which has thus far prevailed warrants such expectation.

“ With these few observations we refer to the various statistics subjoined, of imports, exports, prices, &c. It will be seen with some surprise that in wool there has been a falling off of not less than 2509 bales, the produce of the Sydney District; as well as 1100 bales imported from neighbouring colonies. The former can only be accounted for by the lightness of the fleece, the less quantity of skin wool, and perhaps the greater number of bales at this moment afloat in the harbour; for the number of sheep have not diminished. It is evident, however, at present rates of labour, and the want of certainty of an adequate supply, sheep farmers will not feel much inclined to increase their flocks, but will cull every season for the pot, a course which will have the beneficial effect of improving their stock. The gold-fields of Victoria, though their richness has been greatly exaggerated, will produce a similar result in that colony. But there is another matter which is doing more to render wool-growing unprofitable in New South Wales than

all of the gold diggings ; we mean the burry and ill-conditioned state of so many of our clips ; an evil which if not remedied must soon render us incapable of competing with our Victoria friends.

“ The continental buyers are still competitors for our wool in the London markets ; and it will be noticed with pleasure in our export list that two cargoes of produce have left this port direct for Hamburg. As it is said that our new tariff will remove any discriminatory duties between British and foreign goods, we have reason to hope that the direct trade with Europe will become one of much importance.

“ *Copper*.—The mines which had commenced working at the time of our last circular, have been partially suspended by the superior attractions of the gold diggings ; a good deal of ore however has been brought to grass, and about two tons of Bathurst smelting was sold by us last February, at 75*l.* 15*s.* per ton, being higher than that obtained for the South Australian, and ten tons of Newcastle smelted was shipped, per *Royal Saxon*, to Calcutta. The quantities of copper, both in ingot and ore, which have been

shipped from hence were nearly all imported from Adelaide or New Zealand; but we may confidently anticipate the period when this mineral will form one of the chief sources of the wealth of New South Wales.

“ *Coal*.—The shipment to California, we are sorry to say, did not answer, on account of the plentiful supply of English and American, which is much better adapted than ours for steaming purposes, the chief use for which it is required there.

“ *Preserved Meats* have been sent to England and the neighbouring colonies, in considerable quantities, and command a sale remunerative to the manufacturers.

“ *The Alpaca*. — As already announced in the public prints, the effort to procure an importation of these animals failed, owing to the jealous policy of the Peruvian government having prohibited their export; this is not only to be regretted on account of the valuable fleeces they afford, but from the circumstance that they would have proved so efficient to carry supplies amongst the ravines where our gold diggings exist.

“ *Timber*.—Considerable shipments have taken

place of our hard woods, which are rapidly rising in the estimation of British ship-builders.

“ *Wines.*—The reports on the samples which have been shipped to England are to some extent contradictory, but the most authentic opinions are to the effect that the Australian wines are fully equal to Rhenish, and that, if gradually introduced into the English market at a moderate price, they would soon command attention; their want of maturity is of course a present serious drawback, and some other objections have been urged against a few samples. The Vineyard Association will, however, do much to direct attention to such defects as may be complained of, and to rectify the same.

“ *Stock and Stations.*—It is a significant fact, that notwithstanding the attractions of the gold diggings, not a single sheep property is now in the market! and that fewer have been disposed of since May than during any similar period for years past; indeed, any real first-class runs would command as good a price now as at any time during the last eight years.

“ *Exchange on London*, or bills with produce

hypothecated, was, in November last, 8 per cent. discount ; from this it gradually rose until July, when private paper was at par, and bank bills at one-and-a-half per cent premium ; since then it has rapidly declined, in consequence of the influx of gold for shipment, though the effect of this has been somewhat neutralised by the lower value of our past and coming clip of wool. The rate is now six per cent discount, which operates seriously against every description of export.

“ *Freights* have ruled lower than ever previously known in the colony, owing to the number of vessels which have arrived, not only from England, but from various parts of the Pacific ; and the want of any attraction to the Indian ports, from the low rates current there also. Present freights are $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny per lb. for wool ; 35*s.* to 40*s.* per ton for tallow ; 15*s.* per ton for hides.”

Before giving the reader a short account of the state of the country in March, 1852, (at which time I embarked for England,) it will here be necessary to remind him of the causes of the great panic of 1839, and also to bear in mind that things were gradually improving until the panic

took place at home in 1848, the disastrous consequences of which to New South Wales brought out Mr. Bland's letter, addressed to the Governor in 1850, on the financial state of the country. The squatter of New South Wales borrows money on his wool from the Sydney merchant, at a very high rate of interest, before sending it to the London market; the sum borrowed is of course considered less than the wool would realise in London, in order that the merchant borrowed from may be reimbursed. During the panic in England of 1848, however, wool fell so low in price as not to fetch the sum borrowed upon it; this placed the squatter in the double dilemma of either borrowing money at a most exorbitant rate of interest, or selling his stock and station at a ruinous price. People who possessed money would not lend it unless on good security; the squatter could not sell; the merchant was cautious in his speculations from having suffered in the previous panic, and business was almost at a stand-still, or at least very cautiously entered into; and the state of things was not at all improved by the emigration of many thousands

of individuals to the golden regions of California. Such was the state of things in the beginning of the year 1850, the termination of which brought about that flourishing condition which has been described in the *Produce Circular*.

The next authority I shall make a short extract from is the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a daily paper, the leading journal of Australia, bearing the date of March 6th, 1852.

“THE STATE OF THE COLONY.

“Our friends in England will naturally be anxious to hear by the ships now on the eve of departure from Port Jackson, how we are getting on under the new circumstances which have befallen the colony, as we are naturally anxious to hear how the first intimation of these circumstances would be received by them. Both parties have been somewhat disappointed in their expectations. On our side it was generally thought that the tidings of our gold-field would in England be received with considerable excitement: they appear to have been received with considerable *sang froid*. On their side it was naturally thought that the

discovery would throw the colony into universal confusion, and put an end to all the usual pursuits of industry; no such results have as yet been witnessed. Perhaps neither party took a sufficiently comprehensive view of the facts connected with the other. On our side it ought to have been remembered that the news would reach England just as the public mind had been exhausted by the prolonged excitements of the Great Exhibition, and was for a time in a state of *nil admirari* on which scarcely anything could make an impression. The people had seen all the glories of the world centred in a single focus; and so dazzled had they been by the resplendent vision, that the glories of the Australian Ophir were comparatively dim in their sight. On their side it ought to have been remembered that when the discovery was made the colony was in a state of almost general and unexampled prosperity, and when, consequently, the temptation to relinquish a bird in the hand for the sake of running after two in the bush, was not likely to be very maddening in its effects. It is not quite ten months' since our auriferous treasures were first

brought to light ; yet within that brief period the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria have each shipped about one million's worth of gold, or two millions worth in all. And when it is considered that this has been the produce of unskilled mining, of labour untrained to the peculiar employment, untaught by science, unsustained by capital ; that, in our own colony at least, the number of diggers has ever borne the most insignificant proportion to the extent and richness of the field, and that every day new regions of auriferous deposit are found in almost every part of the interior, to the north and to the south as well as to the west, our friends at home may form some idea as to what Australia is to achieve hereafter, with a population less inadequate to the work she has to do, with the lights of science and experience to direct her operations, and with the aid of capital to give fair scope to her energies.

“ And we rejoice to add that this million of gold produced in New South Wales has been gathered without any serious detriment to our other interests, and with the least possible disturbance of public order and tranquillity. Our corn-fields

have still been cultivated, our sheep have still been shorn. Our metropolitan city remains a busy scene of commerce, and stately edifices are rising up in her streets. Our mining operations have assumed the character of settled industry; our gold is collected without bustle or confusion, and securely carried to market by the regularly established Government escorts, at a moderate expense to its proprietors; while the quantities brought to town and shipped for exportation are as systematically reported in the newspapers as those of any other of our raw productions. The admirable order which has been all along maintained at our diggings, not by military restraints, but by the good sense and moral rectitude of the great mass of the diggers themselves, is indeed a just cause of pride to the colonists, and ought to encourage thousands of our fellow-subjects at home to come over and help us.

“We need their help. Our flocks and herds are increasing while the labour market is exhausted. Wages have consequently advanced at rates averaging on the whole somewhere about thirty per cent. We have ample employment for many

thousands of British immigrants, provided they be men who can really give a good day's work for a good day's wage. We do not want loungers; neither do we want any more of that swarming class of young gentlemen who can do nothing but sit on a stool and handle the quill. Of these we have always more than enough. But persons accustomed to hard work, whether mechanical or rural, and persons having money to invest, whether of large amount or small, will find in New South Wales a finer opening than any other part of the world presents, and than ever before was presented by any colony under the British crown. Let them remember that for mildness and salubrity our climate cannot be surpassed; that our soil is capable of producing all that man requires for sustenance, and most of the luxuries that he prizes; and that at the time our gold-fields were discovered, the colony, with a population of less than 200,000 souls, possessed above 100,000 horses, 1,500,000 horned cattle, and 8,000,000 sheep; yielded an annual revenue of 600,000*l.*; and exported of our own produce or manufactures to the extent of 1,100,000*l.*

per annum, altogether irrespective of her gold. Coupling these facts with the 'great fact' mentioned above, that in ten months we have shipped a million-worth of our new-found product, the fruit of peaceful industry, and the earnest of a still brighter future — our friends in England must admit that our shores have strong attractions for all who think it better to emigrate than to stay at home."

The *Produce Circular* and Market Prices are taken from the *Sydney Herald*, of the date of March 6th, 1852.

"PRODUCE CIRCULAR.

"There has been a larger quantity of wool received during the week, especially from the south country, but most of the clips have been ill-conditioned, and few free from either grass or burr. There was a larger amount offered at auction, and although prices showed a marked decline upon what was obtained in the early part of the year, they were equal to what might have been expected under the pressure now upon the money market, and nearly the whole of that offered was sold.

" Sheep-skins retain their full value. Hides are saleable at 7*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* The rate of exchange is still at 8 per cent. discount against shipments, with little prospect of alteration in favour of the producer. Gold, 64*s.* 2*d.* per oz. at auction. The banks are, however, only giving 64*s.* Freights to London: Wool, $\frac{2}{3}$ *d.* per lb.; hides, 15*s.* to 1*l.* per ton; tallow, 35*s.* per ton; oil, 55*s.* per tun, imperial; gold, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; exchange on London Bank-drafts, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount; private bills (with produce hypothecated), 8 per cent. discount.

"PRICES CURRENT.

WOOL.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Superior clips	. . . . .	1	5		
Fair to good	. . . . .	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	to 1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Low to middling	. . . . .	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	to 1	2
Grease	. . . . .	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	to 0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Locks, pieces, broken wool, &c.	. . . . .	0	8	to 1	0
Hand-washed and scoured	. . . . .	1	1	to 1	6

TALLOW.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Beef	26	10	0			
Mutton	27	10	0			
Station Tallow	22	0	0	to 24	0	0
Hides, each	0	5	0	to 0	7	6
Sheepskins, per pound	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	to 0	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

GOLD.

Dust and nuggets, per ounce, 64*s.* to 64*s.* 6*d.*

may be had as low as $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.; mutton, from $1d.$ to $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. The retail cash prices in George-street, are as under: beef and mutton, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$; veal, $3d.$ to $4d.$; pork, $4d.$ to $5d.$; and lamb, $2s. 6d.$ per quarter to $3s.$

“George-street Markets.”—Fowls, $2s.$ to $3s.$ the couple; ducks, $2s. 3d.$ to $3s. 3d.$; geese, $4s.$ to $5s.$ each; turkeys, $6s.$ to $12s.$; pigeons, $10d.$ per couple; roasting-pigs, $2s. 6d.$ to $3s.$ each; butter, $10d.$ to $1s.$ per lb.; cheese, $7d.$ to $9d.$; bacon, $10d.$ to $1s.$; lard, $4d.$ per lb.; eggs, $10d.$ to $1s.$ per doz.; grapes, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.

“PRICES OF SECURITIES.

	Divisions per ann. last declared.	Paid up per share.	Prices.
Bank of Australia..	4 per cent.	40	30 per cent. premium.
Union Bank	10 do.	25	
		£2 10	
Bank of N. S. Wales.	10 do.	20	£25 0 0
Commercial Bank . .	10 do.	25	30 12 6
Gas Light Company.	10 do.	6	7 10 0
Steam Navigation C.	10 do.	18	19 0 0
Gen. Assurance C. .	10 do.	5	5 15 0
N.S. Wales Mining C.	Estab. August	1	1 7 6
Railway Company . .	5 per cent. int.	£2 5	5 per cent. dis.

“Sanctioned permanently by the Imperial Government, and secured on the Land Fund.

"GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES.

N. S. Wales . . Interest $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. per diem. 2 per cent. premium.
New Zealand . . 8 per cent. per annum. par.

"Mortgages are negotiated at interest of from
6 to 10 per cent. per annum."

STATE OF EDUCATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

There are two different educational systems in New South Wales—viz., the National and Denominational. They are both assisted by Government grants. The National Schools undertake the instruction of all sects of religion, without distinction, leaving the religious department to the parent, or any other individual, whether clergyman or otherwise.

An hour is set apart every day for this religious instruction; and, when neither parent, friend, nor clergyman attends to it, then it is the duty of the schoolmaster to teach it himself—but in such a way as not to lead to any sectarian views of the Bible, but to instruct alone upon all the essential points of Christianity, and to lay the foundation of religious knowledge upon the

broad and beautiful principles of Holy Writ, leaving the pupil to the particular views of his own mind, to choose his own church, and to work out his salvation in any Denominational manner he may think best suited to the dictates of his own conscience. But it is a fact worthy of notice, that the religious instruction is entirely given by the schoolmaster, either from the parent not wishing to interfere, or from the circumstance of the pupil receiving it at home.

I paid a visit to one of the best of these National schools, and was much pleased with the excellent manner in which they were conducted. I was struck with one circumstance, viz., the correct aspiration of the letter *h*, and the accurate omission of it in all words beginning with a vowel. The reader must here bear in mind that these schools have been established for the poor and middle classes. Reading, writing, arithmetic, music are taught, and the higher branches, if the pupil remain sufficiently long to require it, at the following charges, under very able masters—three children from the same

family, 3*d.* per week; one child only, 4*d.* The schoolmaster informed me that few scholars came after fourteen years of age, the majority leaving at ten; he also told me that he scolded the children for coming dirty, which gave great offence to their parents. There are forty-three of these National schools in operation in New South Wales, and fifty-three more in progress.

The Denominational System is provided for by Government grants—has schools of its own, apart from the National—and provides its own religious instruction, and is even separate from other denominations. The Denominational are the Catholics, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, and Established Church. These two systems are, however, at war with each other, so much so as to have induced the Bishop of Newcastle to bring out a publication showing the superiority, as well as the cheapness, of the Denominational system. He proves in his pamphlet that “each child attending National schools costs the public, exclusive of all building expenses, the sum of 2*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.*; while each child in average attendance at the Denomina-

tional schools costs the public, including all building expenses, the sum of 1*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* Each child on the books of the Denominational schools, or each child educated in them, costs the public 14*s.* 4½*d.* The regularity of attendance at the Denominational schools is, to that at the Model National School, as 130 to 100, or thirty per cent. more. The payments of the parents for their children at the Denominational schools are, to the payments of the Model National School, as 154 to 100, or fifty-four per cent. higher." The bishop adds that each child will have cost 3*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, exclusive of all building expenses—nearly four times as much as a child in the Denominational schools: and he continues—"that each child in the province of Victoria has cost the public the sum of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.*" He further continues, "Is not the Denominational System superior in the cheapness and (as far as our present data will enable us to judge) in the excellence of its schools?"

The bishop in another part of his pamphlet, tells a good story against the Model National School at Sydney. It is as follows:—"The

National Board requested the Governor-General to write to Earl Grey and beg that he would cause to be selected in England a well-trained master for the Model National School at Sydney—which resulted in Earl Grey applying most innocently to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury for a Model National schoolmaster. That his Grace the Archbishop, not knowing the novel and subtle confusion of names in this colony, most innocently selected Mr. Wilkins from the Church of England Training-school, at Battersea. That Mr. Wilkins was a pupil of the Bishop Designate of Lyttelton. That he brought out with him a set of Church of England school-books; and expected that he was to be the master of a Church of England model school. That the dismay of Mr. Wilkins was great when he found out the mistake: that the dismay of the National Board was still greater when they thought of the derision which the mistake would bring upon them. That the conscientious scruples of Mr. Wilkins were somehow or another overcome, and the pupil at the training-school of the Church of England, became the teacher at

the model school, opposed to the Church in Sydney."

After having given an account of the two educational systems for the poor and middle class, it may not be uninteresting to know something of the education of the highest classes. The following is a description of the University of Sydney, as it will be before the end of the present year :—

"UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

"The senate of the University of Sydney, having reason to believe that the professors who have been written for will shortly arrive from England, give notice that the first matriculation examination will be held in the first week of October, 1852. In mathematics this examination will embrace the ordinary rules of arithmetic, vulgar and decimal fractions, the first four rules of algebra and simple equations, and the first book of Euclid. In the Greek classics, candidates will be examined in the sixth book of Homer's Iliad, and the first book of Xenophon's Anabasis ; and, in the Latin classics, in the first books of Virgil's

Æneid, and the *Bellum Catilinarium* of Sallust. Also in the history and geography connected with those portions of the above works. The written translations of each candidate will be taken as tests of his knowledge of English grammar and orthography. The senate have passed the following resolutions, relative to this examination. 1. That no person be admitted as members of the University except on certificate of having satisfactorily passed the examination for matriculation. 2. The matriculation examination shall take place once a year, and commence on the second day in Michaelmas term in each year. 3. No candidate shall be admitted to the matriculation examination unless he have produced a certificate, showing that he has completed his sixteenth year. This certificate shall be transmitted to the registrar at least fourteen days before the examination begins. 4. A fee of 2*l.* shall be paid at matriculation. No candidate shall be admitted to examination unless he have previously paid this fee to the registrar. If a candidate fail to pass his examination, the fee shall not be returned to him, but he shall be

admissible to any future examination for matriculation, without the payment of any additional fee.

5. The examination shall be conducted by means of printed papers, but the examiners shall not be precluded from putting any *viva voce* questions upon the written answers of the candidates, when they appear to require explanation. 6. The names of all candidates who have passed the matriculation examination shall be arranged alphabetically. The senate give further notice that six scholarships, of 50*l.* a year each, tenable for three years, will be given to matriculated students of the University who shall acquit themselves best in an examination for scholarship, to be held during the first term. Candidates for scholarships in the first term will be examined in the following subjects :—

“ MATHEMATICS.

“ Arithmetic and algebra, as far as quadratic equations, inclusive. First four books of Euclid. The popular elements of statics and dynamics.

“ CLASSICS.

“ *Greek*.—The *Medea* of Euripides.
Xenophon's *Anabasis*.

“ *Latin*.—First books of Virgil’s *Æneid*.

Cicero’s *De Amicitia*.

Roman Antiquities.

“ Translation from English into Latin Prose.

“ Questions on Ancient History connected with the foregoing works. This examination will be conducted in the same manner as the matriculation examination. Candidates for these scholarships must have matriculated in the University, and be also *bonâ fide* students in the college to be established in connection with the University, or in some affiliated institution. If the professors should not arrive in time for the University to open in October, these examinations will be postponed until the beginning of next year, but the subjects will remain the same.”

The following is an educational abstract founded upon the census of New South Wales, taken in 1851. The sum total of population of the country, including towns, villages, counties, and the squatting districts beyond the boundaries, was in 1851, 187,243.

MALES.

Who cannot read	. . . .	35,247	
Who can read only	. . . .	15,462	
Who can read and write	. . . .	55,520	
			106,229

FEMALES.

Who cannot read	. . . .	29,263	
Who can read only	. . . .	16,435	
Who can read and write	. . . .	35,316	
			81,014
Total . . .			187,243

RELIGION.

Abstract of returns of the population of Sydney and suburbs, on the first of March, 1851, classified with reference to religion. The sum total of the population of Sydney and suburbs was, in 1851, 53,924.

CITY OF SYDNEY.

Church of England	. . . .	20,278	
Church of Scotland	. . . .	3,610	
Wesleyan Methodists	. . . .	2,227	
Other Protestants	. . . .	3,352	
Roman Catholics	. . . .	13,917	
Jews	. . . .	609	
Mahomedans and Pagans	. . . .	54	
Other persuasions	. . . .	193	
Total within the City	. . . .		44,240

SUBURBS.

Church of England	4,468
Church of Scotland	863
Wesleyan Methodists	905
Other Protestants	1,102
Roman Catholics	2,217
Jews	9
Mahomedans and Pagans	22
Other Persuasions	98
Total in Suburbs	9,684
Total within the City	44,240
Total in City and Suburbs	53,924

I will now quote several passages from different speakers of the legislative council upon the subject of National and Denominational education—especially as one of them, high in authority, castigates (probably deservedly) not only the Bishop of Newcastle, the author of the pamphlet, but also the Metropolitan Bishop of Sydney, Dr. Broughton.

The debate began with voting the annual grants for these schools, and took a sudden turn as to the respective merits of each. Mr. Cowper defended the Bishop of Newcastle, and supported Denominational education. It might, perhaps, said he, be offensive to some

honourable members who supported the National System, but it had always been his opinion that it was an infidel system, and he thought so still. He contended that no system of education not based on religion could be sound or good; and he afterwards proceeded to criticise the last report of the National Board, which, he said, had most ingeniously avoided the question of expense. He had been told by one of the members from the northern districts that the master of the National School of Ipswich was so drunken a character that the school was obliged to be broken up.

The Attorney-General then rose, and commenced his address with an assault on the pamphlet before alluded to. He had no inclination, he said, to quote isolated instances of misconduct in schoolmasters; but as Mr. Cowper had attempted to do so, he was willing that the rival system should be judged by that test. Now, he found by the pamphlet published by the Bishop of Newcastle, that the same sort of argument had been insinuated against this system by that right reverend prelate, but he was sure the

house would be surprised to hear that the master of one of the schools of the Church of England—the school at Woodville, in the immediate vicinity of the bishop's residence, and under his immediate superintendence,—was a convict exile, and of the most drunken habits. (*Hear, hear.*) This showed plainly the value the Bishop of Newcastle set upon the character of the schoolmaster and education generally among the people of his own church, when he trusted the management of a school in his own immediate neighbourhood to a convict exile, who was notoriously drunk three days in a week. (*Hear, hear.*) In a report sent in, signed by Robert Blain and Andrew Lang, it was stated that the immediate neighbourhood of this school at Woodville was swarming with children; and the patrons went on to say they would be wanting in faithfulness to the board, if they did not report the circumstances under which those children were growing up. They stated that the only school in the vicinity was kept by a bold, blustering, clever, drunken exile, (*Hear, hear, and laughter*)—so drunken that the school was reported by one of the resident patrons

as shut three days in a week. (*Laughter.*) That notwithstanding this, one class of parents were quite taken with him, and said his manners were so pleasant and kind, that the children would not go to any one else ; and, moreover, that this accomplished drunkard was so clever that he taught the children more in the three days the school was open than they would learn from others in full time. (*Cheers and laughter.*)

The Attorney-General then proceeded to show the advantages of the National System, and dwelt strongly on the fact that large numbers of different denominations attended those schools.

The Attorney-General then stated, the Fort-street school was attended by 218 children of the Church of England (the National School is here alluded to), 199 Roman Catholics ; and no difficulty was found in associating them. He enumerated many other schools in which he showed that different sects associated together in perfect harmony. When he visited the school at Glen William, there were 81 children on the books, three-fourths of whom were attending daily. Of these 32 were Roman Catholics, 31

Church of England, and 18 Presbyterians. He would ask his honourable friend the member for Durham, whether, instead of this school, it would be better to have a Church of England school at this place? (*Cheers.*) If there were one, what would become of the other children? If the Bishop of Newcastle had one of his schools there, he would expect the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian children to go to it. And they could only go to it to be entrapped into the doctrines of the Church of England. They could only be induced to attend for the purpose of proselytism; for, as the Church of England was taught in all these schools, Roman Catholic children, unless they were to be converted, could not be admitted into them. It was the same in all other parts of the colony.

The speaker then denied, in the most indignant terms, the imputation of infidelity cast upon the National System by Mr. Cooper, and challenged its opponent to inspect the books and make themselves acquainted with the course of education followed; when they would find that there was much of religion retained in the

teaching of those schools. The clergy had been invited and urged to visit the schools, and they had declined, although circulars were sent round to solicit their attendance. The Bishop of Sydney had, in relation to this circular, informed the board that it was needless to send any more of the circulars to his clergy, as they were bound by a vow, taken at their ordination, to instruct the children of their own denomination in the doctrines and principles of their faith. Had this body of clergy, then, forgotten this vow, when they left these poor children without instruction? (*Cheers.*) If, from its infidel tendency, the children of the National School were in greater danger than they were elsewhere, there it was that the faithful minister of Christ should be. (*Cheers.*)

The Attorney-General then produced a letter from Mr. Wilkins, refuting the bishop's statement that he had been selected from the Church of England Training School, and asserting that he had left that institution nine years before he received his present appointment. He denied that his connexion with the Training School in England had been entirely as a Church of

England teacher ; and also that the Archbishop of Canterbury had selected him for the appointment. On these points, continued the Attorney-General, his lordship the bishop should have made more enquiry.

It will be only fair play to inform the reader that the Attorney-General is a Roman Catholic ; and I have heard it reported in Sydney that the Roman Catholics have too much to do with these National schools ; and I have no doubt that the circumstance of the bishops of the Church of England admitting that their clergy were bound by their ordination vows to have nothing to do with them, would leave the field completely open to the Catholics, who are too good judges not to embrace such an excellent opportunity of making converts to their faith.

POLITICS AND STATESMEN.

I landed at Sydney, October 1st, 1851 ; and, in a few days after, the Legislative Council met for the first time under the new constitution granted to New South Wales by Earl Grey. It will be here necessary to give a sketch of the government of the colony. The government, under the new

bill, consists of the executive and legislative councils, and of the official and non-official Crown nominees. The executive council consists of the Governor (the President), the Commander of the Forces, the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General. The legislative council is composed of seventeen members for the different counties, eight for the Squatting districts, six for the different boroughs, three for the City of Sydney, one for the Hamlets, and one for the town of Paramatta,—a place containing a considerable amount of population, about fifteen miles from Sydney. The official Crown nominees are the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, Solicitor-General, the Head of the Customs, Auditor-General, Postmaster-General, the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Chief Inspector of Police.

Besides the above-named eight official Crown nominees, there are nine others, who are non-official members of the council. The legislative council has its speaker and chairman of committees. In Earl Grey's new constitution of

New South Wales, the elective franchise was reduced from 20*l.* to 10*l.* A tenant paying 10*l.* a-year rental is entitled to vote, and the landlord of the same property would be qualified to vote also. And I believe that this qualification is universal in its application, whether to towns, counties, or the Squatting districts. Before the new constitution was given to the colony, the Squatting interest was entirely unrepresented in the legislative council. The qualification for a member of the legislative council is 100*l.* a-year in landed property, or 1000*l.* of capital invested in the land.

Political parties may be divided into two classes, consisting of the Governor, the Government officials, and non-official Crown nominees, including the Squatters, who, collectively, may be styled Conservatives (which is about equivalent to that which the Whigs professed politically twenty years ago in England), for the one part; and the working classes of town and country, and small shopkeepers, with many others of certain grades, professing republican principles, for the other.

The following is a sketch of the very first

statesman in Australia, taken from the *Empire*, a Sydney paper :—

“ WILLIAM CHARLES WENTWORTH.

“ The son of the soil *par excellence*, the acknowledged leader of the Opposition—the first and greatest of Australian statesmen, notwithstanding his scandalous political tergiversations—the honourable and learned member for Sydney, William Charles Wentworth, next claims our attention. In earlier days Mr. Wentworth’s rough bucolic patriotism was no less the theme of universal praise than were his great abilities and oratorical power. Not such abilities indeed nor such oratory as England’s polished sons have gloried in devoting to the service of mankind ; but yet such abilities and oratory which in our microcosm deservedly kindled the admiration of his contemporaries, and ensured him the first place in the country. At Cambridge Mr. Wentworth imbibed those liberal principles, and that true British feeling, which it would be unfair to deny were his original characteristics ; albeit veiled and hidden by the Australian superstruc-

ture—the habit of social tyranny over his fellow men in a land of hideous bondage, and the despotism of intellectual superiority among a community of mere sheep-farmers, merchants, and lawyers, who fell down and worshipped the giant. Then the bitterness of advancing years, and that universal jealousy of young blood, and clinging to old associations, that ‘don’t tread upon our heels!’ which canker maturer age; all these have tended to transmute the Australian patriot into the Australian obstructionist. Mr. Wentworth is all-powerful in council, he is master of the house whenever he chooses. The Government courts his friendship, consults with him and prepares under his supervision—not of course avowed—every measure which must go through the ordeal of debate. And when he abuses ‘his honourable friend the Colonial Secretary,’ and inveighs in rocky eloquence against the Colonial Minister, whom his honourable friend serves, his honourable friend knows very well that it is nothing but *bunkhum*—small-sword practice *pour rire*; and blandly accepts the infliction, and bows under the chastisement. When he rises to speak, he stutters

and growls—fumbles with his spectacles—looks round to Mr. Martin, and peevishly calls for his ‘extracts.’ After these impediments which seem rather the effect of design than of unpreparedness, he will rise suddenly into a broken sublimity of language—then he growls and stutters again—then defies the powers that be, in action as well as words—clenches his fist—appeals to the great dead—and closes a lengthened effort of oratory with much ordinary clap-trap. Mr. Wentworth affects the squatter even in his costume. He never troubles his head about the outward decencies any more than he respects the conventional amenities; he lolls upon his seat, throws back his head, thrusts his hands into his pockets, and assumes an attitude of careless, almost offensive contempt for the ‘sacred’ precincts of the legislative chamber, quite in keeping with the morning jacket and soiled corduroys which compose his simple habiliment. If his personal appearance at first sight is plebeian—if his face show signs of free indulgence in the creature comforts—if his whole aspect betoken the habits of the multitude—there is yet in the appearance

of the man something commanding—an inherent and trained intellectuality which forces the respect of those who do not know him for a traitor to his early principles, and to the fair promise of his spring.”

After giving this sketch of the great Australian patriot and statesman, I will now introduce the reader to the man himself. On the 5th Nov., 1851, the grievances of the colony of New South Wales was the subject of debate, upon which occasion Mr. Wentworth delivered the following speech:—

“ It was, he confessed, with feelings of unutterable disgust that he approached the subject of their grievances. He could not better express the feelings that actuated him upon the occasion than by quoting the words of Mr. Burke in his celebrated speech on the Stamp Act. ‘ For nine long years we have been session after session lashed round and round the miserable circle of occasional argument and temporary expedients. I am sure our heads must turn and our stomachs nauseate with them; we have had them in every shape, we have looked at them in

every point of view. Invention is exhausted, reason is fatigued, experience has given judgment, but obstinacy is not yet conquered.' It was now seven years since he moved for an appointment of a select committee to report upon the grievances of the colony, and notwithstanding the strength of the Government at that time,—notwithstanding the small number of elective members who then sat in that council, his motion was carried by a very large majority. Every one of the grievances of which he now complained had been set forth in the report of that select committee, and petitions had been agreed to by that house to the Imperial Government demanding redress of those grievances : and what had been the result ? There had been no redress ; their grievances were as great as ever, arbitrary taxation was still carried on. What, he repeated, had been the result ? After seven years of petitions, of remonstrances, and of prayers, addressed both to the Government at home, and to the colonial government ; after the grievances of the colony had been repeatedly set forth and urged in every shape and every point of view, this arbitrary

taxation, this taxation by a foreign power, for such he contended the English parliament was, in this matter—after all these repeated petitions, remonstrances, and prayers, these wretched schedules, this unconstitutional and tyrannical taxation, were not only not removed, but were enormously increased. (*Hear, hear.*) The Act of Parliament, by authority of which this taxation was imposed, had fixed the amount of these schedules at 81,000*l.* a year, but this amount had been increased by the Colonial Minister to the sum of 93,500*l.*; so that the only result of seven years' continual complaints was to aggravate the wrong, and to increase the amount of this arbitrary and tyrannical taxation by the sum of 12,500*l.* (*Hear, hear.*) After such a result what could the colony expect? What resource had they but in their innate power and strength? Could there be any hope that their peaceable measures would ever have the effect of remedying this most miserable and most disgusting state of things? Were it not that he was tired and sick of the subject he would say that new and more cogent arguments than had yet been put forth

were afforded by the alteration in the state of the colony. He for one despaired of any peaceable demonstration being successful; but circumstances had occurred in the colonies of late years which had given a new aspect to the question. The colonists of Canada had been subject, like ourselves, to a civil list imposed by a foreign authority; but this was no longer the case, and they were now allowed to vote a civil list of their own. He believed that if the same privilege were granted in this colony, the officers of Government would benefit by the change. He was convinced that if the schedules had never been imposed—if the matter had been left to the right feelings of the people, the necessary sum of money would have been voted much more largely and much more liberally. Some salaries, he believed, would have been largely increased; and, at all events, none would have been diminished. But the same wretched and miserable spirit of distrust pervaded the Imperial Government towards this colony which had been apparent in their dealings with Canada, and the consequence was that they were

saddled with these schedules. The house was doubtless aware that until the appointment of Lord Durham to the government of Canada, this system of schedules was unknown ; it had never been thought of in the old colonial constitution, and had no existence in any of the colonies ; and it was only, in fact, after Lord Durham's report, that this mischievous, this illegal, this most unconstitutional system had been adopted in that province. It was by the Act of 3 and 4 Victoria, cap. 35—the Act for uniting Upper and Lower Canada into one province—that this system of schedules was first authorised. And it was well known to this house, and to any person of any information, what mischiefs, what dissensions, and what heartburnings, this innovation had created in Canada. Before the revolt of Canada, and under the constitution granted to that colony by the Act 31 George III., great and manifold grievances had arisen, which resulted in perpetual remonstrances, and petitions from the House of Assembly ; which remonstrances and petitions had, however, been combated and

opposed in the Upper House, which was entirely governed by a family clique. Disturbances had ensued ; revolt and rebellion resorted to, and in the end the House of Assembly stopped the supplies. The people of Canada, in the exercise of their undoubted rights, stopped the supplies, that being the only mode of redress presented by the British constitution short of breaking out into open rebellion. The paramount authority of the Parliament of England over the Legislative Assemblies of the colonies was never questioned. But the Parliament of England had no power to tax the colonies ; and therefore this paltry system of the schedules had first been introduced in Canada, and then extended to this colony ; and its results were as mischievous here as they had been disastrous in Canada. Not long after the introduction of the schedules, disagreements and bickerings arose which soon ripened into open quarrel, and the colonists resorted to arms, the consequence of which was that the Imperial Government agreed to repeal so much of the Constitutional Act (3 and 4 Victoria, chap. 35) as

related to these schedules, and the Canadians were allowed to vote and grant a civil list of their own. But what had been the condition annexed? He would read to the house the 34th section of the Act 3 and 4 Victoria, to show how differently Canada had been treated to this colony in reference to this subject. The minister of that day did not dare to deal with a colony which had been lately in arms, as the Secretary of State now dealt with us. The section was as follows :—‘ And be it enacted, that the expenses of the collection, management, and receipts of the said Consolidated Revenue Fund shall form the first charge thereon; and that the annual interest of the public debt of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, or of either of them at the time of the reunion of the said provinces, shall, form the second charge thereon: and that the payments to be made to the United Church of England and Ireland, and to the clergy of the Church of Scotland, and to ministers of other Christian denominations, pursuant to any law or usage whereby such payments, before or at the time

of passing this Act, were or are legally or usually paid out of the public or Crown Revenue of either of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, shall form the third charge on such Consolidated Revenue Fund ; and that the said sum of 45,000*l.*, so long as the same shall continue to be payable, shall form the fifth charge thereon ; and that the other charges upon the rates and duties levied within the said province of Canada herein before reserved, shall form the sixth charge thereon, so long as such charges shall continue to be payable.' So that, although this new and mischievous principle of taxation by the mere authority of Parliament was thus introduced, yet by the other provision of the Act the territorial revenue of Canada was surrendered into the hands of the legislature of the province. Thus, the justice which was refused to this weak and remote colony was granted to the Canadas, who, on taking up arms, had shown that they could and would put an end to the Queen's government altogether ; for if their numbers had been insufficient for the purpose, they had fifty or sixty thousand sympa-

thisers across the frontier ready to join them at a moment's notice, and make up their strength. This base principle of truckling to the strong and oppressing the weak, was thoroughly characteristic of the cowardly Whig government—that Government which was a disgrace to England—and which, under the pretence of being the friends of freedom, were in truth the greatest despots and tyrants that had ever misruled a country. Having been forced to make these concessions to Canada, these cowardly Whigs had taken mean and base advantage of the weakness of this colony to wreak their spite and exhibit their tyranny on us, because we were defenceless. It was not without some pain that he made these observations to that party of statesmen; for there was, he really confessed, a time in his life when he had entertained better hopes of them; for he thought they would have proved the deliverers, and not the oppressors, of their country. Judging from the first Canadian Act, he had hoped they would have followed in the footsteps of Burke. He had been encouraged from time to time

by the speeches of Lord Howick, that he would have trodden in the footsteps of his illustrious father. But this man—this minister—had turned out the greatest political renegade of the whole set of Whigs. When he was Lord Howick, he had repeatedly expressed his hope that the Government would allow the colonies to govern themselves. But Grey, in Opposition, was a very different man to Grey in office, and entertained very different opinions; and he had strained every nerve to establish a complete system of centralisation for the government of the colonies, in direct opposition to his own declared opinion, when he was Lord Howick, that it was impossible to govern the colonies in Downing-street. Now, what was the state of the question of taxation at the time that the thirteen provinces declared their independence? The first settlers in America had carried with them to their new home all the essential freedom and indefeasible rights attaching to them as Britons, the most sacred of which was the unlimited right of taxing themselves, and of appropriating their own revenues.

And what had been the result of their freedom ? Why in less than two centuries they had grown into a prosperous and powerful nation of three millions of souls. And yet the aggregate expense of their government did not exceed 60,000*l.* a-year ; and under this wise system of government their exports to Great Britain had amounted to 6,600,000*l.* per annum. These were the splendid results of self-government—these the facts which Lord Howick had so eloquently adduced, and which Lord Grey so doggedly denied. (*Hear, hear.*) But then it was sought to impose upon them the Navigation Laws. He would read to the house what Burke said upon the subject:—‘ When you drive him hard, the boar will surely turn upon the hunters. If that sovereignty and their freedom cannot be reconciled, which will they take ? They will cast your sovereignty in your face. Nobody will be argued into slavery. Sir, let the gentlemen on the other side call forth all their ability—let the best of them get up and tell me what one character of liberty the Americans have, and what one bond of

slavery they are free from, if they are bound in their property and industry by all the restraints you can imagine on commerce, and at the same time are made pack-horses of every tax you choose to impose, without the least share in granting them. When they bear the burthens of unlimited monopoly, will you bring them to bear the burthens of unlimited revenue too? The Englishman in America will feel that this is slavery; that it is legal slavery will be no compensation either to his feelings or his understanding.' No doubt it would be said that the right of the colonists to tax themselves was recognised in the Constitutional Act; but before one farthing of these revenues could be appropriated to their own objects, they were saddled with these schedules to the tune of 93,500*l.*; and it was not until this 93,500*l.* was paid under the direction of the schedules, that their liberty to dispose of their own revenue began. But even then, could they make use of this liberty? Could they choose their own officers? Could they pass a single measure upon the most trifling subject without being liable to that eternal veto of the

colonial ministry? Why the Constitution was a sham, a mockery, a false pretence. The council was a mere debating club. Look at what his honourable friend the Colonial Secretary had said the other evening. On the subject of the Railway Act his honourable friend had said, that before the Act could come into operation—an Act in which none but the colonists themselves were interested—an Act of the most strictly local character—it must go through the ordeal of first being sent home, and subjected to the approbation of Downing Street, where it would have to be referred to the Commissioners of Railways in England; as if the Commissioners of Railways in England had anything on earth to do with the subject. By them again it would have to be referred to the lords commissioners of trade and foreign plantations; and fourthly, to be submitted to the Queen for her approval and assent. This was enough to show the vexatious nature of the government of the colonies by a central bureaucracy. Now he had alluded to the prosperous and happy condition of the American colonies when the first disturbances had

commenced. These disturbances had been created entirely by the attempt which was made by the British government and the British parliament to impose taxes on the provinces. No such attempt had ever been made, nor had anything of the kind ever been heard of in any of the colonies until the appointment of a colonial minister. To that appointment might be ascribed all the heart-burnings, all the outbreaks, all the jealousies, and all the dissatisfaction which had occurred ever since. It was this mischievous appointment of an ignorant and irresponsible bureaucracy which had led to all the miseries and disasters that ensued. One would have thought that the miserable shipwreck and dismemberment of the fairest portion of the British empire which ensued upon the attempt to tax the colonies by authority of Parliament, and all the horrors of that disastrous period in our history, would have served as a lesson to future colonial ministers. But no! Within half a century of these events, this most mischievous and ruinous policy was attempted again to be enforced — and on what principle could it be

justified ? The statutes of the empire themselves were opposed to it. By the Declaratory Act, 18 Geo. III., chap. 3, sect. 1, it was expressly decreed :—‘ That from and after the passing of this Act, the King and Parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatever, payable in any of his Majesty’s colonies or plantations in North America, or the West Indies, except only such duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce, the net produce of all such duties to be paid and applied to and for the use of the colony, province, or plantation, in which the same shall be respectively levied, in such manner as the duties collected by the authority of the general courts or general assemblies of such colonies, provinces, or plantations, are ordinarily paid and applied.’ And this Act was by no means limited in its operation to the North American and West Indian colonies ; but was, by a well-known principle of law, applicable to all the colonies of the Crown ; and if it were objected that it did not apply to these colonies, the answer was that these colonies did not then exist, and it was

therefore impossible that they could be especially included in the operation of the Act. But he would quote an extract from Bacon's Abridgement, to show that the Declaratory Act was undoubtedly applicable to all the colonies of the Crown. That equitable construction which enlarges the letter of a statute, is thus defined. *Æquitas est verborum legis directis efficiens cum una res solummodo legis cavetur verbis, ut omnis alia in æquali genere eisdem caveatur verbis.* The words of the 13 Eliz. 1. are—*Circumspectè agatis de negotiis tangentibus episcopum Norwicensem :* yet this statute, although only the Bishop of Norwich be named, has been always extended by an equitable construction to other bishops. He contended that it was a self-evident principle that the provisions of that Act applied to all the colonies of the empire, and in the several Acts of Parliament granting constitutions to Canada it would be found recited ; so that there was no doubt whatever of its general application. Now the origin of the new principle of the schedules was the distrust of the colonies that was entertained by the Imperial Government. They feared that,

as the Canadians had stopped the supplies, which they were perfectly justified in doing, the same course might on occasion be adopted by these colonies; therefore they had introduced this system here to prevent the possibility of the same course being adopted as had been adopted in Canada; but in doing this the Imperial Government had grossly violated the great and fundamental principles of the British Constitution. He would quote the words of the great Lord Chatham upon the subject; and he did so because, although that great statesman's views were probably familiar to a large number of honourable members in that house, there yet might be some honourable gentlemen present to whom the principles of the constitution with reference to this subject might not be so well known. 'It is now,' said that gentleman, when speaking in the House of Commons on the Stamp Act, 'an Act that has passed. I would speak with decency of every act of this house, but must beg the indulgence of the house to speak of it with freedom. Assuredly a more unfortunate subject never engaged your attention,

that subject only excepted when, near a century ago, it was a question whether you yourselves were to be bond or free. Those who have spoken before me with so much vehemence would maintain the Act because our honour demands it. If gentlemen consider the subject in that light, they leave all measures of right and wrong to follow a delusion that may lead to destruction. But can the point of honour stand opposed against justice, against reason, against right? Wherein can honour better consist than in doing reasonable things? *It is my opinion that England has no right to tax the colonies.* At the same time, I assert the authority of this kingdom over the colonies to be sovereign and supreme in every circumstance of government and legislation whatsoever. The colonists are the subjects of this kingdom, equally entitled with yourselves to all the natural rights of mankind, and the peculiar privileges of Englishmen; equally bound by its laws, and equally participating of the constitution of this free country. The Americans are the sons, not the bastards of England. Taxation is no part of the governing or legislative

power. The taxes are a voluntary gift and grant of the commons alone. In legislation, the three estates of the realm, are all concerned ; but the concurrence of the peers and the Crown to a tax is only necessary, to close with the form of a law. The gift and grant is of the commons alone. Now this house represents the commons, as they virtually represent the rest of the inhabitants ; when, therefore, in this house we give and grant, we give and grant what is our own. But in an American tax what do we do ? We, your Majesty's commons of Great Britain, give and grant to your Majesty, what ?—our own property ? no. We give and grant to your Majesty the property of America. It is an absurdity in terms.' These principles were not asserted by the Earl of Chatham alone ; they had also been laid down by Lord Camden, whose profound legal knowledge and sound constitutional views had never been doubted. Lord Camden entirely concurred in the principles laid down by his great contemporary. 'I will not,' said Lord Chancellor Camden, 'enter into the large field of collateral

reasoning applicable to the abstruse distinctions, touching the omnipotence of Parliament. The Declaratory Law has sealed my mouth. But this I will say, not only as statesman, philosopher, and politician, but as a common lawyer, you have no right to tax America. The natural rights of man, and the immutable laws of nature, are all with that people. I have searched the matter. I repeat it, my lords, you have no right to tax America. Much stress is laid upon the legislative authority of Great Britain; and so far as the doctrine is directed to its proper object, I accede to it. But it is equally true, to all approved writers on government, that no man, agreeable to the principles of natural and civil liberty, can be divested of any part of his property without his consent. Everything has been staked upon this single position—that Acts of Parliament must be obeyed. But this general, unlimited, unconditional assertion, I am far from thinking applicable to every possible case that may arise in the turn of times. For my part I conceive that a power resulting from trust arbitrarily exercised, may be lawfully resisted; whether the power is lodged in

a collective body or a single person ; in the few or the many ; however modified makes no difference. Whenever the trust is invested to the injury of the people, whenever oppression begins, all is unlawful and unjust ; and resistance becomes lawful and right.' These two great authorities not only proved that the colonies possessed the inalienable and exclusive right of taxation and appropriation, but that any infringement of that right, even by authority of Parliament, might be lawfully resisted by force. (*Hear, hear.*) Now in reference to Act 18 and 14 Vict., c. 59, otherwise called the Constitutional Act, it would be admitted that this colony had a just right to complain of its enactments. The committee of privy council for foreign trade and plantations, in their report on the nature of the constitution to be granted to these colonies, dated 4th April, 1843, made the following observations :—' Passing to the subject of a civil list, we have to observe that a very large proportion of the revenue of New South Wales, at present withdrawn from the control of the legislature by the permanent appropriation of Parliament, has been a continued

subject of complaint and remonstrance in the colony since the passing of the Constitutional Act of 1842; and we cannot conceal our opinion that these complaints are not without some foundation. It appears to us hardly consistent with the full adoption of the principles of representative government, that as to a large part of the public expenditure of the colony, the legislature should be deprived of all authority; nor does there appear to us to be any real occasion for imposing a restriction upon the powers of that body, which manifest so much jealousy as to the manner in which those powers may be exercised. The expenditure thus provided for is all incurred for services in which the colonists alone are interested. The colonists themselves are mainly concerned in the proper and efficient performance of those services; and it appears to us that they ought to possess, through their representatives, the power of making such changes from time to time in the public establishment as circumstances may require." Now after such admissions as these one would have thought that the next step would have been

the unconditional surrender of the whole of the revenue into the hands of the colonial legislature, which had been recommended as just and right by the commissioners of trade and plantations. But nothing of the sort occurred. On the contrary, what followed? He would tire and disgust the house in reading in its integrity the most lame and impotent conclusions which had been come to by the imperial authorities. Suffice it to say, that although the principle was admitted that the colonists were absolutely entitled to the disposal and control of the whole of the colonial revenue, and that the Imperial Government ought not to have either direct or indirect interest in its appropriation, the colonists were yet deprived of that control through the jealous distrust of the Colonial Minister; and the power of disposing of the revenue was only granted prospectively. That is to say, they were not allowed to touch the salaries of any officers holding appointments at present; and they could only deal with those salaries when the offices should be vacated by the present incumbents. But the most insufferable grievance of all was this. The Act of

Parliament actually granted full and plenary and perfect power to the colonial legislature to deal with all salaries except those of the judges, which were fixed by Act of Parliament; and excepting, of course, the salary of the Governor. And the Act of Parliament did not limit the power to prospective reductions only, but extended to all and every reduction which it might be thought advisable to make, comprising the salaries of all officers whatsoever, except the Governor, the Chief Justice, and two Puisne Judges; viz., the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, and their respective departments; the Colonial Treasurer and his department, and the several other Government officers, and the miscellaneous stems attached to their various departments; the salaries of the clerk of the legislative council and his department, and a variety of other expenses, in which power was given to make, immediately, whatever alterations were found to be expedient. One would have supposed that no power could have been found so audacious as to interfere with these provisions of the Act of Parliament. But what had been done? Why, my Lord Grey had

written a letter of instructions to the Governor-General, commanding him in plain words not to assent to any bill which had for its object the reduction of any of the salaries now in existence ; not to tolerate any interference whatever with the schedules. (*Hear, hear.*) No reductions whatever were to be permitted at present, but the pruning-knife was to be confined to the salaries of the officers not yet *in esse*. This he thought the most unexampled and audacious act that had ever been attempted by a minister of the Crown ; but it showed how utterly valueless were the provisions of the Act of Parliament, when they ran counter to the despotic will of a colonial minister in Downing-street. That minister had been guilty of high crimes which, in other and better days, would have severed his head from his shoulders (*cheers*) ; but in these degenerate times, this degraded and debased Parliament, this thing of expediency, this nest of wretched place-hunters, tamely submitted to any injustice and to any contumely. And now, if the colonists should send home a special and authorised agent to impeach that audacious and despotic minister before the

Commons of England, in their name, they would utterly fail in their object; for the laws of impeachment had gone by, and with them the honour and glory of the British Constitution had faded (*loud cheers*). What he was going to say might not be exactly pertinent to the question, but he wished to refer to some authorities which he thought were not inapplicable to present circumstances. In the Act of Parliament for uniting Upper and Lower Canada, this miserable principle of distrusting the colonies was apparent in every word. The Government dreaded that the colonists would not make sufficient provisions of their own accord for their good and efficient government. In opposition to this miserable policy he would read to the house the words of Burke in his speech on the conciliation of America, when conciliation was too late. 'But what (says the financier) is peace to us without money? Your plans give us no revenue. No? But it does; for it secures to the subject the power of refusal, the first of all revenues. Experience is a cheat, and, in fact, a liar, if this power in the subject of proportioning his grant,

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or of not granting at all, has not been found the richest mine of revenue ever discovered by the skill or by the fortune of man. It does not, indeed, vote you 152,275*l.* 11*s.* 2*¼d.*, nor any other paltry limited sum; but it gives the strong box itself, the fund, the bank, from whence only revenues can arise amongst a people sensible of freedom: "*posita luditur arca.*" Cannot you in England,—cannot you at this time of day,—cannot you, the House of Commons, trust to the principle which has raised so and accumulated a debt of near 140,000,000*l.* in this country? Is this principle to be true in England and false everywhere else? Is it not true in Ireland? Has it not hitherto been true in the colonies? Why should you presume, that, in any country, a body duly constituted for any function will neglect to perform its duty and abdicate its trust? Such a presumption would go against all governments in all modes. But, in truth, this dread of penury of supply, from a free assembly, has no foundation in nature. For first observe, that besides the desire which all men have naturally of supporting the honour of their own

Government, that sense of dignity and that security to property, which ever attends freedom, have a tendency to increase the stock of the free community. Most may be taken when most is accumulated. And what is the soil or climate, where experience has not uniformly shown that the voluntary flow of heaped-up plenty, bursting from the weight of its own rich luxuriance, has ever run with a more copious stream of revenue, than could be squeezed from the dry husks of oppressed indigence, by the straining of all the political machinery in the world ?' This passage conclusively showed the fallacy of distrusting the colonies. It conclusively showed that if the task of providing for their own government were left entirely to the colonists, there was no reason to suppose that they would not vote an equally large or even larger civil list than was now imposed by a foreign authority. But this could not be until the control of the territorial revenue was entirely surrendered into their hands. If this was done, he felt convinced—and he was sure the house and the public went with him—he felt convinced, that the opinion was that many of the officers of

the Government were underpaid, and that much more liberal grants would be made to carry on efficiently and properly the government of the colony. (*Hear, hear.*) A falser policy than that pursued towards this colony had never entered into the imagination of any Government before. What had the colony done that it should be treated with this indignity? Why should the thousands and thousands who come to these shores to extend and increase their resources, the influence and the power of the British empire, and people and reclaim the wilderness—why should they lose their privileges? Why forfeit their birthright? (*Loud cheers.*) This birthright, these privileges, attached to them at the time of their emigration, and why should they not attach to them now? Look at what had occurred in America from the liberal policy pursued in less than two hundred years. Look at the magnificent provinces which had grown up, the trade that had been created, the woods and forests cleared, the cities founded, the ships built, the great and flourishing commerce that had ensued! What was the reason that in these

later days those principles had been abandoned ? He had said, and he would say again, that England had had the misfortune to appoint a colonial minister, and to establish a miserable bureaucracy of incapable, ignorant, and irresponsible men. If the English Government would refer to the history of the American colonies, it would see that ample means had always been voted for every legitimate purpose of government. And not only had the colonies provided for all the necessary establishments, by voluntary taxation, but they had equipped forces and created armaments to resist the inroads of an adjoining power which was at war with the empire. When England was unable to cope successfully on the American continent with the French of that day, the colonists had taxed themselves largely, and provided effectually, not only for the support of the internal government, but for the defence of their frontiers, and for the extension of the empire abroad. (*Hear, hear.*) But he should like to know whether, under the present miserable policy, the colonies would do this again ? He

should like to know, if a foreign power were established on this continent, and that foreign power were at war with the British empire, whether there was the slightest chance—the remotest expectation—that these colonies would exert themselves to engage in war with that foreign power? No doubt, in such a case, all would be done which it would be necessary to do for the defence of our frontiers; but would it ever occur to the oppressed and degraded people to volunteer any support to that Government which distrusted and treated them with contumely and contempt? No! it would never occur to them to do this. They would be satisfied in defending their own particular province; and they would never be voluntary parties to extending the power and the influence of this tyrannical and despotic Government. (*Loud cheers.*) If they had been differently treated, then, if ever it were in their power, from the necessities of the British nation, to afford their aid, no doubt the principle of voluntary taxation would have been largely and cheerfully applied for that purpose; there was no provision,

however large, on however great a scale, that they would not cheerfully have made of their own accord. (*Cheers.*) The eloquent effusion of Burke showed what the policy of the Government ought to be. He wished to see this policy adopted—to see the example of what had been done in Canada, followed in our case; and that her Majesty's ministers could be induced, once for all, to trust to the loyalty and affection of their colonies. (*Cheers.*) It was this hope that had induced him to move in this matter, for the last time. If their representations were disregarded now, never again would he degrade himself by being a party to useless petitions and vain remonstrances. He believed that the time for petitioning had gone by, and that they must have recourse to those measures, which it would not be decent for him to name within those walls. (*Hear, hear.*) And he believed that in having recourse to such measures, they would be perfectly justified; they would, by the opinions of Lord Chancellor Camden, the opinions of Judge Blackstone, and they had common sense on their side. (*Hear, hear.*) This principle had been

asserted by the Bill of Rights, viz.—that resistance even to the Crown, might, in certain cases, be lawful. The omnipotence of Parliament itself must succumb where the community was oppressed to such a degree, that they were compelled to resort to that inherent principle of sovereignty which resides in the people, and which is called into activity when the oppressed rise in their might to get rid of their oppressors. (*Loud cheers.*) But he trusted they should never be reduced to this extreme necessity; he yet hoped their grievances might be redressed by constitutional means. After seven years of battling, he did hope that their petition and remonstrances would be at length listened to. He trusted this last hope would not again be dashed to the earth. (*Cheers.*) But if it were so dashed to the earth, he cared not what others might think or do, or what course they might adopt; but never again would he take part in any further prayers. The time would have arrived when action must take the place of remonstrance, and when that principle of resistance, which the British constitution acknow-

ledged, should be called into play. (*Cheers.*) Whether that resistance should be active or passive—what form it should assume—he would not now pretend to surmise. But some means must be devised, some measures must be taken, to rid the country of the intolerable grievances by which it was oppressed. And he thought such a course was the only one which could then be left for them to adopt. (*Loud cheers.*) It would not be necessary for him to enter at any length upon the other grievances set forth in the report of the select committee. He had already dwelt longer than he at first intended on that monster grievance—the taxation of these colonies by authority of Parliament; his remarks, therefore, on the other grievances should be few. And, first, he came to the subject of the Waste Lands. The disastrous results of the system now in operation could not be better described than they were in the remonstrance itself, which showed that thousands of the best labourers, and those most suited to the requirements of the colony, were kept away from these shores by the high price of land; and, as the house was aware,

for a series of years it had been the practice of the Colonial Minister to refer all their remonstrances on the subject of the great grievance to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the ground that he was incapable of dealing with the subject. But he apprehended, from the absurdity of the replies of those gentlemen, that they were very ill informed upon the matter, if he might judge from the replies they had given to an honourable gentleman, formerly a member of this council (Mr. Lowe), who had agitated the question in England. In their reply, these commissioners of land and emigration relied entirely on Lord Stanley's Land Sales Act. Now it was obvious that, in a prosperous country, a certain portion of the land would command almost any price; inasmuch as when a colonist got a family around him, and became comfortably settled, if there were a piece of land contiguous to his own, and the possession of this land would, as was most probable, add to the comfort of the family, or to its means of subsistence, he would be disposed to give a far higher price for the land than if those circumstances had not occurred.

Besides, a considerable portion of the land in this colony was worth more than 20*s.* an acre—not everywhere, but in different parts of the colony; and he had no doubt that an open competition would have raised the value of the land generally to that standard. But if the land were locked up, as it was now, by a virtual prohibition, which had the effect of keeping persons from emigrating to the colony, in what way, he would ask, was the colony benefited by the system? Suppose some of the land to be worth 20*s.* an acre, was that any reason why that which was worth only 5*s.* an acre should not be sold? He contended the country would be far more benefited by a ready sale at this low price. If the sale of land was to be the means of introducing population—if the proceeds of those sales were to be applied to the introduction of a well-selected emigration, he argued it would be far more advantageous to sell those lands at once at 5*s.*, or even for 2*s.*, an acre, or for whatever they would fetch, rather than wait till 1870 for 20*s.* an acre. (*Hear, hear.*) A greater fallacy than this notion of a compulsory fixed price for land had

never entered the mind of man : and yet on this fallacy were based all the Acts of Parliament relating to the sale of waste lands. He could hardly help believing when he saw those replies, that they originated in the personal feelings of hostility of Lord Grey towards Mr. Lowe ; for he knew ever since his arrival in England, that gentleman had been busily employed in impugning the conduct of the Colonial Minister, and in denouncing his measures. Now, with regard to withholding of the Land Fund from their control, it had often been said that precedents existed for this ; but the real reason why the fund was withheld was, that it could be done with impunity, and that its management became a convenient instrument of patronage. Abuses of every kind were the consequence ; whole ship-loads of paupers were shovelled out upon the colony ; Irish orphans were cast upon us ; scores of the most dissolute of the female sex, chartists, thieves, scoundrels, murderers, were poured in upon our shores ; and every kind of abuse and abomination practised under the present Land Sales Regulations. These were the things that

brought on revolts; these were the things that led to dissension and disagreement between this house and the executive government; this wretched system—the *imperium in imperio*. Instead of one consolidated fund, as in Canada, the revenue was divided into separate and distinct branches, occasioning the keeping of two or three distinct and separate sets of accounts, and opening the door, of course, to corruption, and to grievances of all sorts. On the subject of the Customs, he hardly felt himself called upon to say a word. The house was aware that, according to the late Constitutional Act, the control over the tariff was surrendered to the colonial legislature: but as yet this was but a trifling advantage. The officers administering that department were entirely irresponsible to this house; their salaries were not regulated by the house; they were quite removed from its control. The colony had no power to interfere—not even so much as to audit an account; and, in fact, the department was altogether irresponsible. This was, however, a minor grievance, and he would say nothing more upon

the subject. But he could hardly find words to express his contempt and abhorrence of the meanness of the Government in taking the hard earnings of the colonists to support their friends, and the friends of those friends, by giving all the colonial appointments to persons from the mother country, who had no claim whatever, and generally no qualifications, which fitted them to perform the duty of the offices they held. It was true that some of the holders of these appointments might turn out efficient, but it was entirely a matter of accident; and in the great majority of instances, people were sent out to fill those offices who were in every way inefficient, incompetent, and unworthy. (*Cheers.*) The colonists were thus made the tools and instruments of a corrupt and demoralising system of patronage. Common sense and justice equally points out that the appointment to offices in the colony ought to be vested in those who paid the taxes; but what was the reply of the Government to their late representative on this matter? Why the Secretary of State said, that if the power of appointing to offices were given up to

the colonies, the effect would be, forsooth, to damnify themselves, inasmuch as natives of this colony would lose the chance of obtaining employment in any other colony! (*Ironical cheers.*) Now, if this was not thimble-rigging applied to despatch-writing, he confessed that he did not know what thimble-rigging was (*cheers*); and he could only believe that this argument was put forth to show the contempt that the home Government entertained for the colony and the colonists. He came now to the last of the grievances—that relating to the *veto*; but on this point it was not necessary he should detain the house long. He had already made one allusion to their grievance. He had shown that the power of the veto was not confined to those subjects affecting imperial interests, or the prerogatives of the Crown; but it was applied to matters of purely local interest and of municipal detail. (*Hear, hear.*) In fact there was scarcely a single subject which was not referred to that nest of Solons at home, who were utterly unqualified in every way to judge of them. If the exercise of this prerogative were limited to matters merely

of a general nature, there would be no reason to complain; but when he remembered that no local measure whatever, not even a railway bill, could be passed without being subject to this veto of the Colonial Minister, he confessed he could not find words to express his disgust. He did not know what might be the feelings of the house on the subject he had brought before it to-day; but he had no other feeling but one of indignation, and he believed that feeling would only increase the longer he lived. He trusted that a fellow feeling would spring up in the neighbouring colonies, and although the proposed confederation of all these provinces had not yet become law, yet as they were all labouring under the same catalogue of grievances, he trusted the other colonies would lay aside all rivalry and jealousy, and see the justice and necessity of making common cause in this matter; and that they would never desist or pause so long as a single grievance was in existence. (*Cheers.*) All the grievances he had enumerated were the consequence of the refusal to allow the colonies to administer their own revenue. If this were

corrected he thought the connection with the mother country would yet subsist for a length of time, because this concession would necessarily include that of responsible government. The withholding of the control of their revenue was the monster grievance in this as well as in the surrounding colonies. It was no argument against this concession, to say, that if it were conceded, as large or larger appropriations would be made by the voluntary grant of the legislatures. He did not doubt this; he asserted it himself; but the great oppression was, that their money was now taken from them without their will. (*Cheers.*) In this respect they only echoed the sentiments which pervaded the breasts of Englishmen in all time. When Hampden refused to pay 20*s.* which was laid upon him for ship-money, he did not refuse on the ground that the payment of this tax would ruin or injure his estate. No! but because the payment of half 20*s.* or of the smallest fraction of 20*s.* would have made him a slave. (*Loud cheers.*) This was what Burke had so eloquently said upon the subject. He would conclude by quoting once more from

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that eloquent statesman :—‘ When this child of ours wishes to assimilate to its parent, and to reflect with a true filial resemblance the beauteous countenance of British liberty, are we to turn to them the shameful parts of our constitution? Are we to give them our weakness for their strength? our opprobrium for their glory? and the slough of slavery, which we are not able to work off, to serve them for their freedom? If this be the case, ask yourselves this question: Will they be content in such a state of slavery? If not, look to the consequences. Reflect how you are to govern a *people* who think they ought to be free, and think they are not. Your scheme yields no revenue; it yields nothing but discontent, disorder, disobedience; and such is the state of America, that after wading up to your eyes in blood you could only end just where you began: that is to tax where no revenue is to be found; to—my voice fails me—my inclination, indeed, carries me no further—all is confusion beyond it.’ It was the principle that degraded and not the mere fact; it was the slavery that was sought to be imposed upon them by

Parliament that he protested against, and would protest while the breath of life was in him. (*Cheers.*) And it was with the view of getting rid of this slavery altogether, that he now brought these resolutions before the house, and he trusted the house would unanimously affirm them. He moved,—

1. 'That the petitions to her Majesty and both houses of Parliament, brought up by the select committee of this house, appointed on the 31st October last, to prepare them, be adopted.

2. 'That an address be prepared to his Excellency the Governor-General, requesting him to transmit the petition to her Majesty for presentation to the right honourable the Secretary of State for the colonies.

3. 'That the petition to the House of Commons be forwarded by the Speaker for presentation to Lord Naas, Lord Jocelyn, Mr. Adderly, and Mr. Hume.

4. 'That the petition to the House of Lords be forwarded by the Speaker for presentation to Lord Monteagle, and the Duke of Argyle.

5. 'That the Speaker be authorised to send

copies of these petitions to any member of the House of Lords or Commons, or any other influential person ; and to solicit the influence of gentlemen to whom either the original petitions or copies thereof may be so forwarded, to support the prayer of these petitions and the measures necessary to give effect to such prayer.' "

The honourable gentleman then resumed his seat amid general cheering.

DR. LANG.

I will now introduce the reader to Dr. Lang, the next great political man of the colony. Any one who is at all acquainted with the colony of New South Wales must have heard of Dr. Lang. He has written the history of the colony ; is one of the most popular lecturers of the day on political subjects ; and is, indisputably, the great leader of the republican party. Englishmen at home, who are but little acquainted with colonies, will be surprised to learn that doctors are there as abundantly supplied as mushrooms in England after a shower of rain ; and I am sorry to say that some of them are not half so good even as

the above-named fungus. The doctors I have alluded to are doctors of medicine ; is Dr. Lang, then, one of those ?—No. Is he a doctor of laws ?—No. He is a doctor of divinity.

Having heard of Dr. Lang many years prior to my visit to New South Wales, I was anxious not only to hear him in the pulpit, but also to make his acquaintance, and to have a chat with him upon political subjects. I heard him preach, and afterwards called upon him. He received me very courteously. I found him agreeable in manner, extremely communicative upon all that I required to know politically. He presented me with two of his lectures in a printed form, which he had delivered during the year 1850, in the City Theatre and School of Arts, Sydney, styled "The Coming Event ; or the United Provinces of Australia." I shall, hereafter, quote from these lectures, as they contain the essence of the doctor's political creed, with his remedies for the many wrongs of suffering Australia.

In the pulpit Dr. Lang is not above mediocrity ; and it struck me, whilst I was listening to him, that if he were no greater in political haranguing,

that he must have earned his laurels very easily, and even without deserving them. I had not an opportunity of hearing Dr. Lang when addressing a mob, but I have frequently been told that he is much more at home there than in the pulpit; and I think I shall be able to show, by and by, that he is capable of handling his pen very well, and that with a good deal of humour too; and I hope I may be pardoned for hazarding the conjecture, that I should deem him much more powerful in politics than divinity. To be a political leader of any party in a country is gratifying enough to the ambitious man;—to be, furthermore, the best historical writer, is still a higher step to fame;—and to be robed in divinity, and, at the same time, handling all the rough weapons of political warfare, bears the strong mark of a very original mind. And, probably, it is due to Dr. Lang to claim the originality of this two-fold capacity—this double-minded occupation.

The religious sect to which Dr. Lang belongs is that of the presbyterian, or Scottish Church, but not the Free Church. He, however, not agreeing with the Synod of Australia, separated from

them, and established a free church of his own, without any connexion whatever with the one in Scotland—retaining, at the same time, all the religious principles of the one he separated from, without any difference in doctrinal points or form of worship. But mark the originality of the man: he stands alone, like his church; and had he been a member of the Established Church of England, one might have pictured him, without much exaggeration, in the three-fold capacity of archbishop, archdeacon, and bishop, in his own single person. Dr. Lang has represented the City of Sydney for some time in the legislative council of his adopted country; but of late he has been disqualified for sitting there, by a change having taken place in pecuniary matters, which it is not my business to enter into here, although it is a matter of notoriety in New South Wales.

Dr. Lang is the staunch, persevering, and obstinate opponent of the Government, based upon broad and deep-rooted principles of radicalism. His enemies are bitter indeed against him; consisting chiefly of Government officials. His friends are—as such ought to be—staunch, indeed.

Some time since, Earl Grey brought certain charges against him, which were taken up by his brethren of the legislative council, either to substantiate or repudiate; and I believe that the council, after calmly deliberating upon the matter, arrived at the conclusion that Earl Grey was not very far from the truth. After this, a dissolution of the council took place; and the doctor again took his seat for the City of Sydney, considerably at the head of the poll, and even beating the almost universally acknowledged statesman and patriot, William Charles Wentworth.

Besides acting in the capacity of parson, historian, lecturer, political leader, member of the legislative council, the doctor, some time since, rejoiced in the additional title of editor of a newspaper, now defunct. One would have supposed that any individual occupying offices so various, and so opposed to each other, would have required fourteen days to the week instead of seven, with as many individuals, to have performed efficiently the services connected with them; or else that he must have been a near relative of the admirable Crichton. One would

have imagined that Dr. Lang must have been a leader in the legislative council, or, at least, that he would have had considerable influence as an individual member. I have been informed (the truth of which I know not) that he is not only a non-leader, but that he has no influence whatever.

One might have concluded that the Honourable Charles William Wentworth and himself would have rowed in the same boat, from the great similarity of their political views. The reverse is the truth. They are opposite as the poles; and there is, I should imagine, but one circumstance in the wide world that could bring them together in a friendly manner; viz., their both being lost together in an Australian desert, and both hungry at the same time, suddenly crossing each other in the dark.

I shall now borrow several passages from Dr. Lang's lectures upon the wrongs of Australia, and his remedies for them. In speaking of Great Britain and her colonies, he expresses himself in the following manner:—

“It was never the intention of the Great Governor of the nations to permit the establish-

ment of universal empires upon earth like that of Great Britain and her forty or fifty colonies ; whose wretched government, and whose backward condition, in comparison with what they might be if they were only allowed to govern themselves, are a positive disgrace to the British name, and a calamity to the civilised world. Self-government is the inherent and indefeasible right of such communities as most of the British colonies of the present day ; and, if that right is not conceded peacefully, those from whom it is unjustly withheld will only be acting in accordance with the great law of self-preservation, if they wrest it from their oppressors on the first favourable opportunity. (*Great applause.*) I have no hesitation in avowing my belief and conviction, that, in regard to the group of Australian colonies, composing New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, Port Phillip, and Cook's Land, on the Moreton Bay country, the period has actually arrived when it is equally the interest of the mother country and of these colonies, that they should obtain their entire freedom and independence, and be left to govern

themselves in future, as sovereign and independent states. (*Cheers, loud and long.*) It is simply the means and the power of self-government that require to be ascertained. Again, the only pecuniary assistance, beyond that of military protection, which is granted at present to any of the Australian colonies, is granted, I believe, exclusively for the maintenance of the convict system in Van Diemen's Land. But if the colonists should insist, as I think they ought, that that monstrous system should be done away with, and a large proportion of the convicts withdrawn from Van Diemen's Land, no such assistance would be required even there. But the military, I shall be told, would also be withdrawn in that event; to which I would unhesitatingly reply, the sooner the better! Soldiers, in these colonies, are, at best, but a mere police force, and one of a very inefficient description. They are required for no other purpose whatever. But a local and permanent police for any of these colonies, could be organised, as it should be, on the spot; and would be far more easily maintained, as well as more efficient. (*Expressions of*

assent.) But what, it may be asked, should we do without military protection, in the event of a general war in Europe? Why, in such an event, it must be acknowledged that we should certainly stand in need of both military and naval protection, if we continue mere colonies of Britain. The three great political powers, with one or other of which Great Britain may be supposed likely to go to war, are France, Russia, and the United States; and it is undeniable, that if Britain were actually at war with any one of these powers, that power, in all likelihood, would commission frigates and privateers to prowl upon our coasts, to levy contributions upon our defenceless towns, to ruin our trade, and to destroy our shipping. All this would be done, not with any ill-will to us as Australian colonists, but simply to annoy Great Britain. But if we were free and independent, nothing of the kind either could or would happen. Our envoy, announcing the final concession of our entire freedom and independence, on the part of Great Britain, would be received with acclamations at Paris, at St. Petersburg, and at Washington; and each of

these great powers would be more willing than the others to guarantee and to defend that freedom and independence against all the world, whatever wars might rage in Europe. (*Much cheering.*) In short, it is only as British colonists that we can ever stand in need either of military or naval protection. As a sovereign and independent state, we should require nothing of the kind. Union is strength in the political world, as well as any where else; and what would be impracticable in the case of any one colony, would be comparatively easy for four or five united. I maintain, therefore, without fear of contradiction, that the group of Australian colonies, composing New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, Port Phillip, and Cook's Land, on the Moreton Bay country, would be able to form and to sustain such a government, unitedly, as a union or confederation of separate and independent provinces, like the Swiss Cantons of Europe, or as the United States of America—delegating to a central and federal authority certain well-defined powers, the exercise of which would in no way affect the internal

government of each province, nor in any way compromise their individual sovereignty and independence. Supposing, therefore, that Great Britain should concede entire freedom and independence to the five Australian colonies above-mentioned—as I have no doubt she would, on a proper representation of the case—I would recommend that the island of New Caledonia should, immediately thereafter, be annexed, as a separate and independent province, to the Australian Republic. There is a considerable trade between that island and Sydney already. It abounds with the finest harbours in the Pacific, the finest timber, and the finest land; and with a little temporary assistance from New South Wales, which it would soon be able to repay, it could easily be settled with a German, if not with a British population, and become one of the finest provinces in the world. We should thus have a strong hold on the Pacific, so as to organise a powerful and beneficial influence over the numberless isles of that vast ocean; and I have no doubt we should soon be able to include under the central government of Sydney the

whole eastern coast of Australia, from Cape Howe to Cape York, together with all the larger islands of the Western Pacific. In short, I anticipate that the United Provinces of Australia—for I would decidedly prefer that name to the United States, both because it is equally appropriate, and because it would prevent all ambiguity, showing that we had no connection with the shop over the way—(*Great cheering*)—will ere long be the great leading power of the southern hemisphere; and will one day exercise an influence over the civilised world not inferior to that even of the United States. And ought not a right generous nation like Great Britain to be proud of the honour and glory, not to speak of the commercial advantages of being the mother of a second splendid colonial empire, such as the United Provinces of Australia are destined to become? As mere colonies, we shall be the most insignificant communities on the face of the earth, unnoticed and unknown among the nations. But as a series of sovereign and independent states, bound together in one great federal union, we should at once take our place among the

great family of nations ; our name would be known and respected in every land, and our flag on every sea ; and while our land would be hailed as a city of refuge by myriads and myriads more of the poor and destitute of the people of England—(*Great cheering*)—our power would be beneficially felt throughout the multitude of the isles of the Western Pacific. We love, with the utmost fervour of affection, our mother country, our fatherland ; and we detest from the very soul the bare idea of annexation to any other country, to any other land. We have no sympathy in this respect with the Canadians. (*Much cheering.*) But we do earnestly desire our entire freedom and national independence, both as being our birthright as men and as Britons, and as being indispensably necessary to enable us to realise the glorious future that awaits our adopted land.” (*Loud and long-continued cheering.*)

Dr. Lang, in his second lecture, sets forth many of the grievances of the colony, complaining bitterly against them ; he thus continues :—

“ Of such laws, the famous Squatting Act of 1846, which was passed by the Imperial Parlia-

ment at the instance of the present Whig government, immediately after it had been installed into office, and before it could have acquired the slightest knowledge of the real wants of the colonies, is an instance in point. No man out of a madhouse, if at all acquainted with the real interest of the colonies, would have consented to the passing of such a bill. But there is another grievance of which the Australian colonies have to complain, in common with all the other colonies I have enumerated, viz., that of having a large portion of their ordinary revenues appropriated, under the fiat of an irresponsible authority in England, for the payment of exorbitant salaries arbitrarily fixed by the authorities in Downing-street, and altogether disproportioned to their wants and abilities."

He then goes on to speak of their being taxed against their consent.

"But the palladium of British freedom has been withheld from these colonies in the most offensive manner—mere nominees of the Crown being foisted into our provincial legislature, without the sanction and concurrence of the

people in any way ; and large amounts being abstracted from our colonial revenue for a variety of purposes, without even asking the opinion of the people or their representatives. But these colonies have a further and special grievance, altogether unknown to the British colonies of the West Indies and North America, the existence of which is in the highest degree prejudicial to their moral welfare and social advancement. The grievance I allude to consists in the usurpation of the entire control of the important department of the Waste Lands, and Emigration by the Colonial Office ; for by surrendering the management of these departments to incompetent persons at home, the best and dearest interests of these colonies, as well as those of the mother country, are sacrificed at every turn."

He passes in review the Wakefield System, which provides for emigration out of the waste lands of the colony, having been adopted in 1832. He thus expresses himself on the Wakefield System :—

" But instead of being made subservient, as it might have been, in the highest degree, and with

the utmost facility, for the complete moral renovation of these colonies, by infusing into them a numerous, industrious and virtuous, free, emigrant population from the mother country; it was only made use of in many, very many instances, to aggravate our colonial depravity, and to increase the sum total of our wide-spread pollution."

I shall hereafter quote more of the doctor upon this important matter, Emigration. He now proceeds to another grievance, that of Transportation :—

"The only light in which I can regard transportation to this territory is that of a conspiracy on the part of the Government and a few of the principal squatters against the right and interests of the colonists generally; the Government having virtually sold the country to the squatters, and the squatters repaying the compliment by assisting the Government to degrade the colony into a mere convict settlement. Happily, however, the virtuous portion of the colonists have proved too strong in the end for both Government and squatters together. Earl Grey has been compelled most unwillingly to beat a retreat—an

inglorious retreat—on this question; and let me add, that the victory we have thus gained for the colony, instead of inducing us to sit down and be thankful—I mean to Earl Grey—should only induce us to persevere in a course of vigorous and manly effort till we obtain our entire freedom and national independence.” (*Great cheering.*)

After stating that, if transportation had not been put a stop to, the country would have soon been exclusively occupied by squatters and convicts, and that all the virtuous and good people would have emigrated to California; he then continues speaking of the same question:—

“ In the circumstances in which we are thus placed, it is in vain to look either for help or for sympathy from England. Of the three great moral powers of the mother country, the Parliament, the Public, and the Press, there is not even one that cares a rush for us, and they would all have been but too glad if we had only consented on the late occasion to become a great moral cesspool for their national commerce.”*

* “ There is no public in the country that cares about Colonias.”
—*Art of Colonisation*. By E. G. Wakefield, Esq., p. 367.

Dr. Lang's remedies for the many grievances of Australia consist in the formation of a league, which should enroll members from every part of New Holland to consult together upon the best means to be adopted for the preservation of the country from all the evils of Downing-street, and ultimately to achieve the entire freedom and national independence of the whole of Australia. All this is to be done by moral means, and with the full consent of Great Britain; although the doctor was advised by some parties in England to set at nought the powers that be. Upon this subject he expresses himself in the following very loyal strain:—

“ In recommending, therefore, to my fellow colonists of all classes the measure I have thus proposed (speaking of the League), I would beg to express my own sincere respect and unfeigned attachment towards her Majesty Queen Victoria, and my earnest desire for the welfare and prosperity of the British empire; being persuaded that in agitating for the entire freedom and independence of these Australian colonies, I am not only rendering the greatest possible

service to Great Britain herself, but doing merely what a dutiful son would not hesitate to do towards the best of parents, when enabled, by the good providence of God, to establish a prosperous business, and to rear a hopeful family of his own beyond the sea." (*Applause.*)

The doctor, in another part of his lecture, alludes to the circumstance of Earl Grey wishing to found an order of colonial nobility. He speaks of it in the following manner:—

"It would seem, indeed, that Earl Grey has had serious intentions, since he came into office, of instituting an order of colonial nobility forsooth (*ironical cheers and laughter*), to perpetuate the old system of the mother country in this territory in a reduced and colonial form; and Sir Henry Young, the present Governor of South Australia, appears, from a speech he delivered on his arrival in that colony, to have been authorised to feel the pulse of the colonists on the subject. For my own part, I think his lordship ought to send out a consignment of bibs and tuckers, with some old staid gentlewoman as dry-nurse, along with his intended colonial titles (*renewed*

laughter) ; for I am much mistaken if he has not greatly misapprehended the character and spirit of full-grown Australian men of the nineteenth century, when he takes it for granted that, like mere children, they would be

“ ‘ Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw.’ ”

The doctor again gets upon his favourite topic, the independence of the colonies ; and, after drawing a brilliant picture of the bright future which awaits the United Provinces of Australia, he concludes his second lecture in the following humorous manner :—

“ To conclude : the past history of the world sufficiently proves that the birth of a nation has hitherto been a process somewhat similar in regard to the parties directly concerned, to that of an individual—exhibiting violent throes on the part of the parent, and desperate struggles into life on the part of the child. Look at the case of Great Britain and the United States of America—at the vast expenditure of life and treasure, of pain and sorrow, and national degradation, which it cost Great Britain

to give birth to that first-born of her strength; insomuch that the child, vigorous and healthy, as it speedily proved, was, notwithstanding its utmost efforts, almost strangled in the process of coming into life. But as medical men tell us that the corporeal system is so relaxed in these southern regions, that events of the kind I have mentioned take place with far less pain and agony to the parent than in the old world, I am in great hopes it will prove so also in the birth of our Australian nation. (*Great cheering.*) I wish not a man from England to be shot on the occasion, nor a single sixpence of English money to be lost. (*Cheers.*) I wish the interesting event to take place without a single cry on the part of the parent, or the slightest struggle on the part of the child. (*Renewed cheering.*) And when the healthy and vigorous bantling (*much laughter*) walks alone, without assistance of any kind from its parent, I hope to see that parent patting him on the head and clasping him to her bosom with all the conscious pride of a mother, while the darling boy returns her caresses with the tear

of joy in his eye, saying, in the fulness of his heart, ' Though all other nations should disown and forsake thee, yet I will not ; I will treasure up thy much-loved image in my grateful remembrance : I will engrave thy honoured and venerable name on the palms of my hands and the tablets of my heart.' (*Cheering loud and long.*)

Any author taking up the pen to communicate his ideas to his fellow men should not only start with the truth, but end with it : and rugged as this path may be from the many prickly obstacles to be found in it, should he change it for another and a smoother, not all the beautiful flowers of rhetoric, however sweetly scented—no style, however fluent—no epithets, however accurate and well chosen, can compensate for the loss of the truth ! I will not accuse Dr. Lang of any deviation from the truth in his various statements of the many grievances of the colony, for I believe that nearly all of them are universally acknowledged to exist ; but I think he has come to a false conclusion when he has attributed the emigra-

gration to California to the mis-government of the colony, either at the hands of the colonial legislation at Sydney, or to the Imperial Parliament in England. These emigrants consisted of adventurers and, many of them, of broken-down individuals of various classes, in pursuit of gain, who might have obtained wealth in Australia; and many of them were, no doubt, unfortunate enough; which ought not to be attributed to the Government of the country, but rather to their own want of brains, or better stars to guide them, or, in some cases, to their own imprudence.

Again, I think he is wrong upon the Squatting question: he says none but "men out of a mad house" could have consented to that act—alluding to the vast extent of waste land rented from the Government, and to the vast number of acres with the tens of thousands of sheep belonging to a single individual. I would say in answer to this, these waste lands are too poor for agricultural purposes; and the expense of artificial grass-growing could not, in the present state of the colony, with its scarcity of labour

and high wages, serve the purposes of grazing in a more concentrated form, so as to pay the sheep-farmer.

Let us take a view of the question in another point of view. Wool, being the great export of the colony, gives lucrative occupation, not only to the merchants of Sydney, but also to the shipowners in England, and employment to a great number of labourers in taking it to the coast, and to others in shipping it to its final destination—all of whom are good customers to the various shopkeepers in town; whilst the labouring classes, from excessive thirst, in a very dry climate, do not forget to wash their throats with a plentiful supply of either spirits or ales, thereby benefiting the publican, and at the same time, requiring to be clothed, are good customers to the tailor,—in short, take away the sheep and the cattle from New South Wales, and (except the recent gold discovery) then, I think, there is but little doubt that the country would be soon deserted, and Sydney turned into a fishing-village.

I shall now leave Dr. Lang, and give a sketch of a well-trained actor on the boards of the legislative council. He is an old and well-trained servant of the Crown. The following picture is taken from the *Empire* newspaper, an opponent of the Colonial Government :—

“ EDWARD DEAS THOMPSON.

“ The honourable the Colonial Secretary for New South Wales is acknowledged on all hands to possess remarkable business talents—that is to say, Mr. Thompson performs the office of Colonial Secretary, which is a somewhat laborious one, to the entire satisfaction of his superiors at home ; to his own satisfaction, also, without doubt ; to the satisfaction of all that portion of the colonists who are dependent upon him ; and, as far as the routine of his duties goes, to the satisfaction of his political opponents. No one will deny to the honourable gentleman the praise due to his assiduous industry,—to his extensive information on matters concerning his office,—to his invincible urbanity,—to his good-natured endurance

of all the *avanies** necessarily attaching to the position which he occupies as working head of the Government. In council, Mr. Thompson is never taken aback. If, by chance, any startling motion is brought forward in the house—a rare occurrence, be it known—the Colonial Secretary may feel surprised at his own unpreparedness, but he never shows it. On the contrary, he rises with his usual self-possession; and, advancing to the table, and leaning on both his hands, turns his head towards the Speaker, and says—‘I do not rise, sir, to oppose the motion of the honourable member,’ exactly in the same tone, and with the same self-confident *nonchalance* which he would exhibit on making a motion of course. You never feel afraid for him. There is no halting nor hesitation in his movements—nor, although his eloquence be but of the smallest, does he ever seem at a loss for words. He strings his sentences together with a very unnecessary number of *ums* and *ahs*—but the machine does not stop; the wheel never wants greasing—

* *Insults.*

Edward Deas Thompson has always something to say. What that something is, may be fairly questioned. Nine times out of ten no one knows except the Colonial Secretary himself; and, perchance, his parliamentary *aide-de-camp*, Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, who, though not a member of the house, takes his seat as regularly at Mr. Thompson's left hand as the clock strikes three, in the afternoon. To statesmanship Mr. Thompson has not the shadow of a claim. I have never heard him give expression to a single original idea. He has no genius; he has no individuality; he has no will of his own. The mandates of his masters are to him law and gospel. He carries them out as a matter of course; and if he is defeated on any one point he cares nothing about it; knowing very well that he will probably win all the others; and that if not, he is not responsible. Defeat will not affect him, however it may embarrass those who give him 'instructions.' In short he takes things coolly. As to oratory he possesses nothing of the sort. He never spoke warmly I should think in his life. There is no spirit in his voice, his

action, or his intonation. When he speaks, the house listens because he is Colonial Secretary; when he sits down, the house rejoices that his 'observations' are concluded. Mr. Wentworth always calls his honourable friend the 'Colonial Secatore;' whether intentionally or not it would be hard to say; but never man deserved better such a *sobriquet*. In personal appearance Mr. Thompson strikingly resembles the average of Downing-street second fiddles. When he wears the 'Windsor' on state occasions, one is apt to inquire what right he has to that tall, top-heavy, white-and-red feather which grows with such pretensions out of the apex of his plain cocked hat; and also why his sword is not worn at the side, as swords ought to be, instead of encumbering the action of his leg by being brought 'amidships.' But these are trifles. In conclusion, if I were deliberately asked to say who Mr. Thompson most reminds me of, I should unhesitatingly reply, and others would reply with me—Oily Gammon, Esquire."

I shall conclude this account of the statesmen and politics of New South Wales by informing the

reader that the interior of the building where the Legislative Council meets is elegantly and comfortably fitted up—that the tone and bearing of its members is good and most creditable to a small colony—and that some of its members would claim a hearing in the House of Commons. Their reports, that are sent to England, are always, I am told, drawn up with considerable ability.

CONVICTS.

The word “convict,”—of all the words in the vast vocabulary of language, none will fall upon the ear of the young Australian of future generations with more meaning; and one on which his youthful mind will dwell, not only as a great historical fact, but also as the founder, not only of a colony but a vast empire, extending its influence over the countless and beautiful isles of the boundless Pacific. What the Pilgrim Fathers sought and found without the aid and advice of the British Government, in America—the convicts of Australia obtained by the especial direction and parental care of the mother country—a home and a

future empire. The freedom of religious worship sent the Pilgrim Fathers to Plymouth Rock; the want of religion induced the British Government to force her undutiful and irreligious sons to Botany Bay; and these two different classes, as opposed as the night to the day, bid fair to produce the same happy result. What mighty things are effected from small beginnings! That the world should be almost belted with the Anglo-Saxon race, carrying along with it its high state of civilisation, from the mere fact of a few persecuted religionists seeking a shelter from their oppressors and a few unfortunate convicts expelled from their native land, will be a wonderful fact for the future historian of America and Australia to dwell upon.

All the great works of the colony have been performed by the convicts under Government management. Very soon after the founding of the colony free emigrants arrived with grants of land from the Government, on condition that they employed one convict for every hundred acres so granted. This is the Assignment System as it is called; it has of late years entirely ceased

throughout the colony. The convict gets nothing for his labour but clothes and rations.

There are ticket-of-leave men: a man transported for seven years, after serving four in the colony, claims this ticket; he is confined to a certain district, and is compelled to report himself at certain times; he receives wages like an ordinary labourer, and at the expiration of seven years, if he have not been guilty of any misdemeanor or act of disobedience, he becomes a free man, and can, if he choose, return to England. A man transported for fourteen years claims his ticket after serving six years in the colony, eight years afterwards he becomes free. A man transported for life claims his ticket of leave after eight years of servitude in the colony, and after serving faithfully as a ticket-of-leave man six years longer, like the others, he gets as much wages as he can bargain for; he receives a conditional pardon, which enables him to go to any part of Australia, but not to return to England.

The word convict or transport is never employed in the colony, it is considered most

offensive—he is always styled a Government man. Another class of convicts, who have served part of their time in England, have been sent out to Australia, these are denominated “exiles:” they are put upon the same footing, and have the same rank with ticket-of-leave men. Other names are applied to the convicts, as *expirees* and *emancipists*; an *expiree* is one who has served his time, an *emancipist* is one who has been transported for life and obtains a conditional pardon.

Many of the convicts, after having paid the penalty for their previous unfortunate conduct, have become the wealthiest people in Sydney; ride in their carriages, live in magnificent houses, and become honourable and valuable members of the community. One, if not two instances, have occurred where they have found their way into the Legislative Council, and their sons and daughters, in certain cases, even visit at Government House; and some of the minor offices under Government are held by their descendants. In the early times of the colony, it is an historical fact that some of the rulers of the convicts were

great tyrants. Gentlemen acting in the capacity of soldier and magistrate, condescended to realise money from them by the sale of rum. In some cases their rulers were such tyrants as to induce the convict to commit some desperate crime in order to be removed to a better master. At that date there was scarcely any religious instruction provided for them; there was a frightful disproportion of the sexes, perhaps ten men to one woman; they contracted the habit of drinking to a fearful extent; all of which contributed to produce a tone of morals of the worst and lowest kind. Hence the origin of bush-ranger (a species of highway robber in the bush), with murders and robberies. Many a convict preferred the free life of a bush-ranger to that of a slave under a tyrant.

People in England will be surprised to learn that Botany Bay was never a locality in which the convicts were employed; although it is only six or eight miles from Sydney, a wilder and more natural scene is not to be found in the whole of Australia; it was so named by Dr. Solander, the naturalist of Cook's Expedition,

from the many thousands of beautiful plants found growing there.

The convicts, in the early days of the colony, had the greatest possible antipathy to the free immigrants, and, in some cases, it exists to this day. The convicts looked upon the country as belonging to them, and that the immigrants were usurpers of their rights. Governor M'Quarie, whose name may be seen engraved upon a score of public buildings in Sydney, was their great friend, so much so as to make the following very severe remarks upon the immigrants : that the population of the settlement consisted of two classes—"those who had been transported, and those who ought to have been." It will be now a most interesting question to know the number of convicts in the colony in proportion to that of the population. The total population of New South Wales, according to the last census, March 1st, 1851, was 187,243.

The following table will give the required information :—

MALES.	
<i>Free :—</i>	
Born in the Colony or arrived free	81,226
Other free persons	22,397
<i>Bond :—</i>	
Holding tickets of leave	1,986
In Government employment	594
In private assignment	26
Total males	106,229
FEMALES.	
<i>Free :—</i>	
Born in the Colony or arrived free	76,695
Other free persons	4,232
<i>Bond :—</i>	
Holding tickets of leave	46
In Government employment	32
In private assignment	9
Total females	81,014
Total population bond and free, male and female	187,243

We learn two very important facts from the above statistics—viz., that the convicts are gradually disappearing, and that the disproportion of the sexes is rapidly on the decline. The proportions being — males, 104,229 ; females, 81,014.

Few things in this world fully realise our expectations, and many of them (as time rolls on) give daily proof of the fallacy of our early views—of schemes well concocted entirely

frustrated; of hopes well founded dreadfully blighted: not so, however, with the British Government; at first starting it sent out convicts to people a distant land, and lay the foundation of a great country, and planned, at the same time, the moral reformation of her undutiful sons; the scheme has more than realised the views of the British Government. It is one of the noblest and grandest experiments England ever tried; whether dictated by true philanthropy, or by the mere desire of removing her disobedient children to a distant soil to purify her own social atmosphere, the result is still the same: it remains one of her greatest achievements: and the Australian of future ages, as he reflects on the origin of his country, and reads in the page of history of the fame of his mother country, with pride will acknowledge her claims to renown at Trafalgar and Waterloo; but, with a grateful heart, he will feel and know that the greatest battle she ever fought, and the greatest victory she ever gained, was that of compelling the strong Australian forest to retreat before the sharp and valiant axe of the poor unfortunate

but industrious convict. If such has been the beneficial result of sending convicts from home ; why cease to found other settlements upon the same principle ? There are many localities well adapted for it in several parts of Australia, and hundreds of convicts at home, kept under confinement at a great public expense, who, when they are turned adrift in England, might, in all probability, find their way back again to their old prison ; and, if they do not, they are not fit members of a moral community. It has been fully proved in Australia that the morals improve in proportion as the physical comforts increase ; for I have been told, upon the best authority, that the old convicts are just as soon to be trusted as many of the emigrants.

Port Curtis is an excellent locality for a settlement, and the country beyond it is as far as the Gulf of Carpentaria. Transportation to New South Wales ceased in the year 1840. During my stay in New South Wales I frequently met with persons who attacked Earl Grey very freely ; and newspapers of every kind seemed bent upon a fierce war with him. In taking up the

Empire one day I met with the following correspondence :—

“AUSTRALASIAN LEAGUE.

“NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

“ December 15, 1851.

“DEAR SIR,—The accompanying paper I received from the Hobart Town branch a day or two ago, for the purposes, first of submitting them to the council of this branch, and then transmitting them to you by *Shamrock*. This correspondence will give you some idea of the official opposition with which we have to contend—an opposition rendered in any way formidable only by the social condition of so large a portion of our population, the best of whom are unfortunately irritated by the prolonged discussion of a painful subject. You will be pleased, however, to learn that, notwithstanding these circumstances and other influences, to which I have referred in former letters, our elections have terminated to our satisfaction. The only one district from which returns had not been made at the date of my last letter, having sent a thorough Leaguer (a 100*l.*-subscriber) to the

New Council, in whose chamber the battle of cessation will be well fought.

“ I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ HENRY DOWLING, JUN.

“ G. WRIGHT, Esq.”

PROTEST OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE.

“ SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE,

“ *Hobart Town, 15th November, 1851.*

“ MY LORD,—The undersigned, as the Council of the Australasian League, had the honour to transmit to your lordship, on the 20th of August last, a protest against the introduction of convicts into this colony. The arrival since then of the *Blenheim*, with 308 male prisoners, from Cork, imposes upon them the duty to enter anew their protest against this wanton breach of faith by her Majesty's government. The treatment which the petitions and remonstrances of the colonists have received for years past, and especially lately, at the hands of her Majesty's government, and of the two Houses

of Parliament, had deepened the conviction that the imperial legislature is utterly indifferent to the welfare of the Australian colonies. The feelings of indignation thus created have been aggravated by your lordship's assertion that no breach of faith had been committed against this colony. The undersigned deem it, therefore, necessary once more to record that your lordship, in a despatch dated February 5th, 1847, addressed to his Excellency Sir W. J. Denison, as follows:—‘ I have to inform you that it is not the intention that transportation to Van Diemen's Land should be resumed at the expiration of the two years for which it has been already decided that it should be discontinued.’ This decision was formally announced to the Legislative Council by Sir W. J. Denison, in July, 1847; and his Excellency, in a dispatch of the 20th of August, informed your lordship, ‘ that any attempt now to revive the system in any form would be looked upon as a breach of faith, and would cause, I have no doubt, feelings of hostility which would be very embarrassing to the Government.’ Thus your

lordship was made acquainted with the construction put upon your despatch by the Lieutenant-Governor of this colony, and his Excellency was never informed that he had misunderstood your lordship's meaning. Yet after the lapse of four years, this charge is reported to have been made against Sir W. J. Denison, in Parliament, by your lordship and other members of her Majesty's government. Such evasions must lower the dignity of those who attempt them, but they cannot annul the promise which has been made.

"We have the honour to be, my lord, your most obedient servants,

"T. D. CHAPMAN, M.T.C.	ROBERT OFFICER.
JOHN DUNN, JUN, M.T.C.	W. ROUT.
JOSEPH ALLPORT.	W. CROOKE.
ALEX. M'NAUGHTEN.	F. HALLER.

"RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL GREY,
"Secretary of State for the Colonies."

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
 "19th Nov. 1851.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter containing duplicate

protests against the introduction of the convicts by the *Blenheim*, and I am directed by his Excellency to inform you that they will be transmitted by the first opportunity. His Excellency has desired me to remark, with reference to the contents of this protest, that the gentlemen who have signed it are altogether mistaken in the statement made by them, that his Excellency was never informed that he had not understood the Secretary of State in interpreting too widely the terms of the despatch dated the 5th of February, 1847. Sir W. Denison has been informed specifically by Lord Grey that it was never the intention of the Government that transportation to this colony should be stopped altogether, but that a proportion only of convicts should be sent to Van Diemen's Land in common with other colonies.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your very obedient servant,

“ P. FRASER.

“ F. HALLER, Esq.”

" SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE.

" Hobart Town, 22nd Nov. 1851.

" SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, by which his Excellency informs the Council of the League that they are mistaken in their protest, that his Excellency was never informed that he had misunderstood the meaning of the Secretary of State's despatch, by which his lordship announced that transportation to this colony was to cease; on the contrary, Sir W. Denison had been informed specifically by Lord Grey, 'That it was never the intention of the Government that transportation to this colony should cease altogether, but that a portion only of convicts should be sent to Van Diemen's Land in common with the other colonies.' This Council desire me to express their regret that they should have overlooked among the Parliamentary papers any answer Earl Grey may have sent to his Excellency's despatch of the 20th of August, 1847; and, as his Excellency

is no doubt aware of the strong terms in which that nobleman and the British Government have been censured in Parliament by the English and colonial press, and by the Australian colonists, they would be happy to learn the tenor of any document by which the British Government can be exculpated from accusation of breach of faith of which it stands charged at present; they will therefore feel obliged if his Excellency will favour them with a copy of the despatch to which your letter refers.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ F. HALLER.

“ TO THE HONOURABLE, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.”

“ COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

“ 24th Nov. 1851.

“ SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, on behalf of the Southern Council of the Australasian League, I am directed to acquaint you that the Lieutenant-Governor

does not recognise the gentlemen forming that Council as constituting a body entitled to call upon the Government for information or explanation. His Excellency deemed it proper to point out an error in a communication addressed by them to the Secretary of State, and it is for them to take such steps as they may think necessary in the matter.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your very obedient servant,

“ P. FRASER.

“ F. HALLER, Esq.”

“SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE.

“ *Hobart Town, 4th Dec. 1851.*

“ SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th of November, and, in answer, have the honour to enclose in duplicate a letter to the right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies. By this letter, which the Council beg of Sir W. Denison to transmit, his Excellency will perceive that they do not

admit their statement in the protest to be a mistake, viz., ' That his Excellency was never informed that he had misunderstood the meaning of the Secretary of State's despatch announcing the intention to discontinue transportation to this colony.

" I have the honour to be, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" F. HALLER, *Hon. Sec.*

" TO THE HONOURABLE, THE COLONIAL SECRETARY."

" SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE,

" *Hobart Town, 1st Dec. 1851.*

" MY LORD,—The Southern Tasmanian Council of the Australasian League had the honour to address to your lordship on the 15th ult. a protest against the introduction of the prisoners per *Blenheim*, lately arrived. The Council beg now to enclose copies of a correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and themselves, by which your lordship will perceive that his Excellency

Sir W. T. Denison considers the statement in the protest, That he was never informed that he had misunderstood your lordship's meaning of the despatch which announced that transportation to this colony should cease, as a mistake; for that he had been specifically informed by your lordship, 'That it was never the intention of the Government that transportation to this colony should be stopped altogether.' Their answer to this intimation will show the anxiety of the Council to correct any statement which could be proved to be unjust towards your lordship, and they therefore begged Sir W. T. Denison to favour them with a copy of the despatch from which the above passage is quoted. To this request his Excellency refused to accede, on the ground that he cannot recognise the Council of the League as a body who have a right to ask any explanation of him. It will appear a strange inconsistency to your lordship that Sir W. T. Denison should have entered into correspondence with the Council, under pretence of pointing out a mistake, and when requested to furnish proof, evade it on such a plea. The Council as one of

the organs of a body which represents the just claims and opinions of the Australian colonies, and which has enlisted the sympathy of all religious bodies, and of every man of character in this hemisphere, does not require the recognition of Sir W. T. Denison. The Council beg to remind your lordship that when Sir W. T. Denison communicated to the legislative council your despatch of 5th Feb. 1847, containing the words, 'It is not the intention that transportation to Van Diemen's Land should be resumed at the expiration of the two years for which it has already been decided that it should be discontinued,' he did so in the following words: 'I lay on the table a copy of a despatch from Earl Grey on the subject of transportation. This despatch with various other papers had been printed for the information of the houses of Parliament, and I have only at present received the printed copy. I have no reason, however, to doubt the accuracy of this, and I take therefore the earliest opportunity of laying before you the decision of her Majesty's government, that transportation to Van Diemen's Land should not be resumed at

the expiration of the two years for which it has been already decided that it should be discontinued. Her Majesty's government, in coming to this determination, have acted in accordance with the expressed wishes of a large proportion of the free inhabitants of the colony. The immediate result of such a measure will be a rise in the price of labour, which may have the effect of retaining in the colony those whom the prospects of higher wages might otherwise tempt to emigrate to the other Australian colonies. What the ulterior results may be can hardly as yet be foreseen, and it would be altogether out of place to speculate on them here: whatever they may be, whether productive of prosperity or adversity, I trust that the inhabitants of the colony will be prepared to meet them in a spirit of faith and confidence in the goodness of God; that they will not be unduly elated should their anticipation of increased prosperity prove correct; nor in a corresponding degree cast down should a period of adversity and distress follow the change which they have so suddenly decided.' This announcement appeared also in the Government

Gazette, of 27th July, 1847. If, therefore, his Excellency is in possession of any despatch which offers any explanation respecting the breach of faith of which the colonists complain, and which charge against her Majesty's government has been substantiated and reiterated in Parliament this very year, the Council venture to think that it would have been only an act of justice to your lordship that his Excellency should have given publicity to such document. Your lordship, however, will perceive that the statement in the protest, 'That his Excellency was never informed that he had misunderstood your lordship's meaning,' is not in any way invalidated by Sir W. T. Denison's intimation that he had been specifically informed by your lordship that it was never the intention of the Government that transportation to this colony should be stopped altogether. That in 1847 it was the intention of the Government not to continue it, is established beyond all doubt by your lordship's own despatch, by the records of the Legislative Council, and by the *Government Gazette*; and it is equally clear that the announcement was made

in terms which admit of no misunderstanding or misconception.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ My Lord,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ F. HALLER, *Hon. Sec.*

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL GREY,

“ *Secretary of State for the Colonies.*”

IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION.

The subject of immigration is one of vast importance to all the Australian colonies. An immigrant landed in Australia might be compared to a commodity in the market—if there is a great demand for labour, and immigrants are few, they get high wages, and *vice versâ*. The expense of immigration is entirely furnished from the revenue of New South Wales, and the management of it is completely in the hands of the Imperial Government, and emigration agents in England. The money expended on immigration in New South Wales and Port Phillip, from 1832 to 1850, amounted to 1,475,699*l.*; and the

sum total of immigration from Great Britain and Ireland during the above periods, was 116,259 individuals—27,008 of these, however, came out at their own expense, and the remainder at the cost of New South Wales and Port Phillip. The imperfect management of this department by the Imperial Parliament in England is considered by the colonists to be one of the greatest grievances of New South Wales. Let us see what Dr. Lang says upon the subject :—

“ At one time, under the notorious pretext of remedying the disproportion of the sexes in these colonies, the streets of London, Liverpool, Dublin, and Cork were swept for female immigrants to be conveyed out to these colonies at our expense, till the streets of Hobart Town and Sydney became like the worst thoroughfares of the British metropolis. At another, our colonial funds were expended in inundating the colonies of New South Wales and Port Phillip with immigrants of the most inferior description, a large proportion of whom were equally useless in a social, and worthless in a moral point of view. And what is the process that is actually going

on at the present moment, notwithstanding the previous recommendation of the Legislative Council of 1845—that in all future immigration at the public expense the number of immigrants from each of the three kingdoms should, if possible, be equal? Why, an immigration of young women exclusively from Ireland, and chiefly from the south and west of that island, has been going on at the instance of the home authorities, and at the expense of the colony, for two years past; and from what has already transpired in the case, it has been abundantly ascertained, both in New South Wales and Port Phillip, that the majority of these immigrants are not only useless, but an absolute pest to the community; very many of their number being notoriously addicted to the lowest and most degrading vices of their sex. As it is sufficiently evident, moreover, from the whole history of the case, that this peculiar form of immigration has been suggested by interested parties for the express purpose of supplying Roman Catholic wives for the humbler classes of the Protestant inhabitants of the colonies, in order to bring

over the future generations of colonists to the Romish communion, it is discreditable in the highest degree to her Majesty's government, and a positive outrage upon the best feelings of the colonists, to have lent itself to so peculiarly jesuitical, so nefarious a scheme. But it is not so much in the descriptions of persons selected, under the sanction and patronage of the home Government, for a free passage out at the expense of our Land Fund, that the colonies are seriously injured in their best interests, and their general advancement retarded to an incalculable extent, as in the positive obstruction which the home Government opposes to immigration of a superior description in a great variety of ways. The vast extent of eligible land of the first quality and in the best situations throughout the Australian colonies, affords an unlimited field for the settlement of an industrious and virtuous agricultural population; and if the requisite facilities were only afforded for the emigration and settlement of such a population, there is no doubt whatever, especially in the present circumstances of the mother country, that this most desirable process

would go on with incredible rapidity, and be the means of conferring the greatest possible benefit and blessings both on the mother country and the colonies. Had the colonists the management of their own affairs there is no doubt whatever that such facilities would be cheerfully afforded, and that immigration of a superior character and the contemporaneous settlement of the eligible lands of the colonies would be encouraged and promoted by every possible means. (*Much applause.*) But no such facilities are afforded by the home Government: on the contrary, every conceivable obstruction is thrown in the way of the immigrants' limited means; and when such persons find their way to the colonies, notwithstanding, the difficulties they experience in obtaining the smallest fraction of the millions of acres of eligible land that are fit for immediate settlement, and the loss of time and of capital to which they are exposed in the process, induce them not unfrequently to return to the mother country in disgust. (*Strong expressions of indignation, and cries of 'Shame!'*) Why, it was only a few days ago that I met with a highly respect-

able practical farmer from the midland counties of England at Port Phillip, who had come out to settle with his family in that district, bringing with him either 4000*l.* or 7000*l.* But every section of land he had put up successively for public sale in the usual way, was found to have some claim upon it on the part of some friend or other of the superintendents or the commissioners of Crown lands, &c., &c.; and the consequence was that after spending to no purpose three years and upwards of his time, and nearly 1000*l.* of his capital, the person who would otherwise have proved a most valuable acquisition to the colony, was actually preparing to return to England in disgust. (*Loud and reiterated expressions of indignation.*) It is this intolerable state of things—the result of our ignominious vassalage to Great Britain—that diverts the stream of British emigration of a superior description to the United States of America, where a liberal and enlightened Government, sprung from and supported by the people (*great applause*), affords every imaginable facility for the settlement of a free immigrant European population. It is

neither the greater length of the voyage nor the character of our climate, which, indeed, is incomparably superior to that of America, but the wretched character of our Government, in comparison with that of a Government based on freedom and independence, that repels the tide of British emigration from our shores ; thereby consigning the British colonies to a state of miserable decrepitude, and enabling our great rival to make gigantic strides to universal empire. (*Loud expressions of assent.*) Again, the unprecedentedly rapid increase of the flocks and herds depastured on the waste lands of Australia, not only ensures a correspondingly rapid increase of wealth, but creates a constant and yearly increasing demand for certain descriptions of labour. And the most important economical problem for any Government to solve in Australia is so to proportion the supply of labour as to meet the constantly increasing demand. Now, if the Australian colonies were only under a Government of their own, there would be no difficulty whatever in maintaining this due proportion between the demand and the supply of

labour; for in those periods of temporary exhaustion of the Land Fund to which the country is subject, and during which the supply of labour from beyond seas is entirely stopped, and the whole machinery of society deranged, the credit of the country, if it could only be pledged by a responsible Government, would enable it to obtain any amount of money at the lowest rate of interest in the European market, to effect the exact amount of emigration which the necessities of its inhabitants required, while the very influx of that population would tend to raise the value of the public lands, and to stimulate their purchase. (*Applause.*) But what is the state of things in this respect that results from Government from home, in regard to the social and moral as well as the economical welfare of the colonies? Why, when the Land Fund happens to be exhausted, the supply of labour is entirely stopped, as it was for five years in succession, from the 1st July, 1842. But the demand for labour continues in the meantime, because the real wealth of the colony—its flocks and herds—is all the while rapidly increasing.

In such circumstances, the price of labour rises to an enormous amount, till it ceases to be obtainable on any terms; and the wealthier colonists are consequently driven, from sheer necessity, to import at great expense from the continent of Asia and elsewhere, Klings, Coolies, Chinamen, Cannibal Islanders from the South Seas (*laughter*), and expiree convicts from Van Diemen's Land; thereby deteriorating the breed of men in the colonies, in order that the breed of sheep and cattle may be kept up (*much laughter*); lowering the tone of morals throughout the territory, and introducing an inferior and debased caste into our general population. In the meantime, the humbler classes of our own countrymen at home, who would gladly emigrate in myriads, if they could, to a land in which their labour would be adequately rewarded, and in which they would have bread to the full (*great applause*), are robbed and spoiled of their birth-right by a Government (I mean the Imperial Government exclusively), which, if it only received its deserts, would be consigned, bag and baggage, to a lunatic asylum. (*Great laughter.*)

FIRST ARRIVAL IN NEW SOUTH WALES. A
DESCRIPTION OF SYDNEY.

I left the settlement of Nelson, New Zealand, on the 15th September, 1851, and arrived at Newcastle, in New South Wales, October the 1st. Newcastle is a sea-port, situated at the mouth of the River Hunter. It is famous for its extensive coal-fields, with which it supplies the town of Sydney, and even the distant golden region of California. The coast of New South Wales, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, rises to a height of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea, in the shape of steep cliffs, covered with the natural vegetation of the country; and presents, altogether, an aspect most agreeable and inviting to the sea-tost traveller. These inviting cliffs, however, are not available for either grazing or agricultural purposes, being sandy, poor, and covered with scrub. The land by the side of the River Hunter is quite of another character, being a rich alluvial soil, studded with farms, and producing crops of grain equal to the very richest soils in England. The Hunter District is one of

the earliest settled and best cultivated parts of New South Wales. Large and commodious steamers ply up and down the river three or four times a-week, laden with cattle, grain, and passengers, for the town of Sydney, distant about seventy miles. I got on board one of these steamers, and coasted along, until I reached the Heads—two very bold and picturesque cliffs, which form the entrance of Port Jackson, at a distance of about eight miles from Sydney, the capital of New South Wales.

Prior to my landing at Sydney, I had frequently heard of its harbour; but I did not anticipate seeing one of the finest things I ever beheld. I have visited the great lakes of North America, the Lake of Geneva, the fiords of Norway, and the various indentations of the coasts of Ireland and Scotland, but none produced an impression surpassing that which I felt when I first beheld the magnificent and peculiarly beautiful scene of Sydney Harbour. The land which surrounds the harbour is hilly, not timbered but scrubby, and the soil, like that of the coast, poor, with large stones protruding through it, looking at a distance

like boulders. These rocks contrast singularly with the uniformly stunted scrub. The hills, covered with their peculiar vegetation, form as wild a scene as any to be found in the interior of the great Australian continent, although within a few miles of the metropolis of New South Wales; and the many and beautiful little bays, with a number of islands, and splendid stone mansions here and there scattered over the hills around the harbour, taken altogether, form, probably, one of the most striking and truly picturesque scenes to be found in the world.

The day that I landed at Sydney happened to be the horticultural and floricultural show. I immediately repaired to the spot; and, wending my way through the gardens, I suddenly pounced upon a tree, which, from its great height, majestic appearance, and peculiarity of form, stood alone and unrivalled by his botanical companions, ---something similar to a Chinese pagoda surrounded by pretty little houses, or to St. Paul's in the City of London, as seen from any of the bridges. This was the *Araucaria excelsa*, or Norfolk pine. I proceeded further on my way;

and suddenly found myself in the presence of the gay throng, with the band of the 11th Regiment performing polkas, waltzes, and morceaux from different composers.

I walked further on, and soon observed the *elite* of the place, and had a sight of Sir Charles Fitzroy, the Governor (a good specimen of a high-born English gentleman), with a number of faces, of both sexes, very near to him, in whom I could easily discern high-breeding, fashionable style of dress, and every other indication of first-class society, quite equal (although fewer in number) to any exhibition of a similar nature in London. I then quitted the Governor's circle, to look at others, and there I found well-dressed men and women by hundreds. Nothing gross either in look or deed;—men and women all displaying good taste in dress, and bereft of that look and manner which characterises those among our own men and women in England who do not belong to the middle classes. In fact, no awkward, or shabbily-dressed, or rabble-looking part of the community, was to be seen. Having investigated the ladies and gentlemen,

the heads of the animal kingdom, I after that wandered up and down the garden, and had a good opportunity of seeing the vegetable world as it there displayed itself.

The Botanic Garden at Sydney is an extremely fine thing; it is so situated as to command a good view of the harbour;—having hills and vallies, nooks and corners, where you suddenly rise and see the Government House; and the vast and beautiful harbour, with its most romantic bays, and all the ins and outs of the extensive coast which surrounds this magnificent sheet of water, and the various beautiful trees and shrubs of the garden, foreign as well as native, with the Australian sun shining in all his golden and silvery splendour, with a sky second to none but Italy, made an impression on me not readily to be forgotten. I paid frequent visits to the garden, and called upon the director, Mr. Moore, whose kindness and readiness upon all occasions to give information was such as to make every visitor feel himself quite at home in his company. I was much pleased to observe the *Cedrela Australis*, *Nerium*

oleander, from the East Indies; *Erythina speciosa*, West Indies; *Olea Europea*, *Eriobotrya Japonica*, Japan; *Platycerium grande*, *Bambusa arundinacea*, *Ficus macrophylla*, Moreton Bay; *Brugmansia suaveolens*, Peru; *Ficus elastica*, East Indies; *Castanospermum Australe*, Moreton Bay; *Melia azederach*, Syria; *Eucalyptus glauca*. I have enumerated the above to show that the gardens are really valuable from their not alone having specimens of the wonderful vegetation of Australia, but that they are assiduously getting seeds from all parts of the world. I paid a visit to the Museum, which, at that time, was undergoing various alterations, and consequently I had only a glance at the interesting collection which it contained, as all the objects in natural history were stowed away as snugly as possible.

The Museum is a very fine building, and seems to prosper under the care of Mr. Wall, the curator, who lays claim to be the first to make known to the scientific world two new species of whales—the *Cætodon Australis* and the *Euphysetis grayii*, inhabitants of the neighbouring seas. I afterwards visited the Immigrants'

Barracks, an institution to take care of females when they arrive in the colony; I was informed by the matron that she had beds for 600 girls, and that they remained there until they obtained situations. From thence I went to the Infirmary, and was much gratified in finding skilful surgeons and able physicians to take care of suffering humanity: it contained beds for 120 patients; the wards were spacious and airy, and, altogether, was not at all inferior to anything of the same kind in England. I then proceeded to the Benevolent Institution, a large building containing beds for 500 individuals; here I found a mixture of the old and infirm, madmen and invalids, all crowded together in a way that was neither comfortable to the inmates, nor very agreeable to the visitor; it appeared to contain, under one roof, those who ought to have been in three distinct buildings—viz., asylum, hospital, and union.

The next place that attracted my attention was the Library and Reading Room, a very fine building containing 16,000 volumes of books, with every periodical published in England, and many of the London daily newspapers, with

a number of pictures by English masters. The next place I went to see was the gaol, a short distance from Sydney, at Woolloomooloo. I am not sure if I have hit upon the right orthography of this very extraordinary name, but I am sure, when correctly written, that the oo's have the majority over the other letters; it is a native name. Through the kindness of Captain Webster (the governor) I was shown all over it, and also learnt a few particulars concerning its inmates. I was informed that the cells were not separate, and that the prisoners were allowed to communicate with each other; that education was allowed them; that wages were given them if they were inclined to work; that drunkards were very numerous, and were kept in close confinement from twenty-four to forty-eight hours on bread and water; and that hard drinkers, or old offenders, got three months of prison discipline with close confinement. I learnt also that those who had committed theft were most numerous; that of the two sexes the women were more criminal than the men; and that the former returned oftener than the latter: that a large

majority of the women were Catholics, and the men slightly in favour of Protestantism ; that the old and infirm, when liberated, soon returned, as there was no poor law to provide for them ; and that the gold diggings had diminished crime.

The Model National School is a fine building. I have previously given a description of it under the head of "State of Education in New South Wales." I went to the theatre several times during my stay in Sydney, and was very much amused and pleased with the excellent style in which both comedy and tragedy were performed. The building is about the size of some of the best of our provincial theatres. The *corps dramatique* are strong enough in music to perform Bellini's operas of "I Puritani" and "La Somnambula;" the orchestra was not one of the best I ever heard ; and the *danseuse* pleased me less. I attended a concert, which was very well got up : there was very fair singing, a good solo on the flute, a very good executionist on the violin, and twelve pianos played at the same time ; this latter I thought a very great treat to the lovers of noise ! The Sydney people are

very musical. I heard pianos played in every part of the town, and very loud ones too; and was rather surprised one Sunday evening to hear a number of polkas, waltzes, &c., loudly performed, so as to be heard more than one hundred yards from the house; and the same evening, in another part of the town, more polkas saluted my astonished ear. I thought this very strange, and on further inquiry I ascertained that the musical individuals were Jews.

The people of Sydney are chiefly indebted to Mr. Nathan for their musical acquirements. He has got up a well-trained choral society: I went to hear them, and was much struck with their good voices, excellent time, and their general performance. They went through several parts of Haydn's "Creation," and with very good effect, and many other pieces, which were well sung. Some of the *morceaux* were composed by Mr. Nathan himself. Mr. Nathan is the author of the "Hebrew Melodies," the music in "Sweethearts and Wives," "The Illustrious Stranger," "The King's Fool;" and I think he informed me he was well acquainted with Lord Byron, and that

he had composed airs for some of his lordship's poetical effusions. He has also found out many airs of the Aborigines, and arranged them for the pianoforte.

The next place I visited was the Cemetery. It is situated at a short distance from the town, and covers many acres of ground. Each particular sect has its own exclusive burial-ground ;—the Established Church occupies the largest area ; when there, I observed a very fine tombstone, and to my surprise found that the deceased was a native of my own county, and born in a locality which I had frequently visited. In one of these divisions of the Cemetery there were no tombstones ; I forget the sect to which it belonged. On questioning the porter at the Established Church section, he informed me that there were in days gone by, fifty deaths per month of drunkards alone. It must be remembered that this persuasion is in a very large majority, and that it is not intended as a slur upon the Establishment, for I believe in those days all were pretty much addicted to the same habit ; and to this day it prevails far too much

among most classes of society ; and its pernicious influence is doubly poisonous from the hot climate of the country.

After this I went to the Jews' Synagogue ; a building, although small, displaying as much taste as any in the town. The Jews muster strong in Sydney, and are not at all behind the rest of their brethren in other parts of the world in their accumulation of wealth. I attended the service, and had the greatest possible attention shown to me. The rabbi was a fine red-faced fellow, dressed in a black and white silk gown, with his hat on, all the time of service, and made as many bows as Prince Albert at a levée. As far as I could understand, they seemed to pray exclusively for themselves. I was informed that the ladies sat apart from the gentlemen ; there were none present, however.

After having given this short sketch of the principal institutions, I will now speak of the town and other public buildings. The finest building I saw in Sydney was the Union Bank of Australia ; after it, the Library and Reading-rooms

previously described; then the Treasury, the Post-Office, and the Savings' Bank. The churches are rather below the average of English ones. They commenced building one or two new churches sometime since, which do not progress. When passing one of them, I unfortunately took it for a ruin; however, that which I attributed to the church, I think may be applicable to the subscribers, with a difference,—that *they* may be ruined; or, if not, they ought to be, for having commenced such a fine building as it promised to be without finishing it.—The Royal Hotel must not be forgotten; it is the first and best in the town, and in regard to size must certainly take a second if not a first rank among the public buildings.

All the land surrounding the harbour is high; the town stands on hills and vallies running from north to south, about eight miles from the head or entrance to the harbour, and commands from many parts of it good views of this beautiful intermingling of land and water. George-street is the principal one; from Campbell's Wharf to the Benevolent Asylum, I think must be near

upon three miles. Starting from the wharf, and taking it along its whole length, will include many of the most striking features of Sydney. If the stranger take a view of the wharf, he will (if in the season for exporting wool to London) see large and splendid ships belonging to Green, Dunbar, and other well known London ship-owners, loading for England—a gay and bustling scene. This is one extremity of the town.

Let him now take the whole length of George-street to the Benevolent Asylum. On leaving the wharf, if he glance to the right, he will observe some tall and well-built houses perched upon a high hill; proceeding further on his way, he will come to an open space to the right hand; here the country upon a small scale appears to defy the town, and it seems as if a smart contention were going on as to which should become the victor. There he will see goats jumping and grazing, dogs running about, suspended lines, on which hang the well-cleansed linen from the wash-tub; this space is a steep hill, and romantic rocks are to be seen peeping through the surface, with little shabby wooden huts perched upon

some of them; very near this he will read—"To Fearnly Corn Stores," "Britannia House, Outfitters to all parts of the World;" and a little further on he will perceive, "Hogg, Hay and Corn-factor." This is the most uninteresting and least pleasing part of George-street, but a very original scene for a town. Continuing on, he will come to Charlotte-place and Bridge-street, both at a right angle with his course; here will be found an evident improvement—large and handsome houses, and some good buildings; glancing to the left, he will have another view of the country, which has somewhat retreated before the town, partly occupied with large and sombre-looking trees, the *Pinus Pinaster*.

Proceeding further on, he will pass Lyons-Buildings, the Bank of Australasia. He will now perceive that he is in the heart of the City of Sydney, with fine shops of every description, crowded streets, well-dressed people, handsome and well-appointed carriages in great numbers; the latter will surprise him for their number, as there are more and better carriages in Sydney than in any town in Great Britain of the same

population ; and many of them sufficiently smart to cut a good figure even in Hyde Park during the London season. After this he will not be far from the Post-Office, a large and well constructed building, and before arriving there he must have observed an unfinished building of the Italian order of architecture, the New Bank, not unlike the Reform Club in London ; here the shops are as handsome as those of Regent-street, and near the Post-Office is Mr. Jones's establishment, quite equal to any in London, and another near to the Post-Office, of the same description.

If he happen to look behind him, he will perceive a very original and picturesque scene, that of the distant hills of the neighbourhood of Sydney, at the end of George-street, distant four or five miles. After this, if he continue on to the other end of the town, he will pass the Royal Hotel (considerably larger than Evans's Hotel, Covent Garden) ; many good houses, average shops, until he finds himself at the Haymarket ; turning to the left, he will perceive a large area enclosed with post and rail,

in it may be seen horses as wild as rabbits, brought from the bush and exhibited for sale. After a purchase has been made there is frequently great difficulty in catching the horse; this is effected in the following manner: an expert fellow (probably an old bushman) takes a long rope with an open noose at one end, held at the extremity of a long stick, and throws it over the horse's head, leaving it on his neck; there is great difficulty in doing this, as the horse is at full speed; he may be foiled for five or six times, at last he succeeds; two or three men lay hold of the other end of the rope and tighten the noose until the poor horse is nearly choked; he falls to the ground, and is easily captured. After this a halter is put on him, and for the first time in his life he finds himself deprived of his liberty, and nobly contends with his cruel captor, so forcibly as sometimes to kill himself on the spot, break his leg, or get severely injured. This is at the other extremity of George-street, quite near to the Benevolent Asylum. Pitt-street, north, will display shops little inferior to those of Regent-street; the following are some of them: "Cobden

House," "London House," and a mourning establishment. In looking in at the windows of some of the clothiers, I saw articles ticketed as follows:—trousers, 3*s.* 9*d.*; shirts, 3*s.* 6*d.*; worsted socks, 6½*d.* per pair. I have been informed that at certain times articles of clothing are to be bought cheaper in Sydney than in London.

Sydney boasts of its Hyde Park, a very fine open space, grassed, enclosed, and planted with trees, with seats for the accommodation of strollers, who may here enjoy a charming view of distant hills, town and country, both together. Lyons Terrace, containing the very best houses in Sydney, here let for 300*l.* per annum, stands on one side of Hyde Park, on the road to Woolloomooloo. Approaching the town from this terrace a road leads up to St. James's Church (a very respectable specimen of church architecture), which will conduct the stranger to many of the best public buildings and the most fashionable part of the town of Sydney. Arrived here, the stranger will observe a rather fine structure, Saint Mary's, belonging to the Catholics; further on, St. James's, which is the

beginning of Macquarie Place, the finest part of the town. To the right the stranger will observe a large, commodious, red brick building, the Immigration Barrack; near to it the Infirmary, and on the same side the Legislative Council; opposite to it Mr. Birdekin's house, one of the finest in Sydney. Further on, the School of Industry, until the Domain makes its appearance, a fine, open, park-like space, commanding one of the finest possible views of the town and harbour.

At the entrance of the Domain the first thing that strikes the visitor is a remarkable fine statue of Sir Richard Bourke, one of the best and most esteemed governors of New South Wales. There are seats at a little distance from the statue where I have placed myself many a time during the hottest part of the day, listening to the murmur of the trees fanned by the sea-breeze, which blows cool and refreshing after a good march in the hot streets of the town. There is a very fine view of the harbour here, as it commands the Heads, a distance of eight miles, and a sight of the shipping leaving and arriving. Here the statue is seen to great advantage, being in front

of the seats, with the face turned toward the beautiful harbour, the dead figure so finely executed as to appear watching the ships with as great interest as when he lived amongst them, and acted for the benefit of the town of Sydney and New South Wales. The following is the inscription which it bears :—

THIS STATUE
OF
LIEUTENANT BOURKE, Bt., K.C.B.,

IS ERECTED BY
THE PEOPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

TO RECORD HIS HONEST, ABLE, AND BENEVOLENT ADMINISTRATION
FROM 1831 TO 1837.

SELECTED FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT A PERIOD OF SINGULAR
DIFFICULTY, HIS JUDGMENT, URBANITY, AND FIRMNESS
JUSTIFIED THE CHOICE.

COMPREHENDING AT ONCE THE VAST RESOURCES PECULIAR TO
THIS COLONY, HE APPLIED THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME
SYSTEMATICALLY TO ITS BENEFIT.

HE VOLUNTARILY DIVESTED HIMSELF OF THE PRODIGIOUS
INFLUENCE ARISING FROM THE ASSIGNMENTS OF PENAL
LABOUR, AND ENACTED JUST AND SALUTARY LAWS FOR THE
AMELIORATION OF PENAL DISCIPLINE.

HE WAS THE FIRST GOVERNOR WHO PUBLISHED SATISFACTORY
ACCOUNTS OF THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. WITHOUT OPPRES-
SION, OR DETRIMENT TO ANY INTEREST, HE RAISED THE
REVENUE TO A VAST AMOUNT, AND, FROM ITS SURPLUS,
REALISED EXTENSIVE PLANS OF IMMIGRATION.

HE ESTABLISHED RELIGIOUS EQUALITY UPON A JUST AND FIRM
BASIS, AND SOUGHT TO PROVIDE FOR ALL, WITHOUT
DISTINCTION OF SECT, A SOUND AND ADEQUATE EDUCATION.

HE CONSTRUCTED VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS OF PARAMOUNT UTILITY. HE FOUNDED THE FLOURISHING SETTLEMENT OF PORT PHILLIP, AND THREW OPEN THE UNLIMITED WILDS OF AUSTRALIA TO PASTORAL ENTERPRISE.

HE ESTABLISHED SAVINGS BANKS, AND WAS THE PATRON OF THE FIRST MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

HE CREATED AN EQUITABLE TRIBUNAL FOR DETERMINING UPON CLAIMS TO GRANTS OF LANDS.

HE WAS THE WARM FRIEND OF THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

HE EXTENDED TRIAL BY JURY AFTER ITS ALMOST TOTAL SUSPENSION FOR MANY YEARS.

BY THESE AND NUMEROUS OTHER MEASURES FOR THE MORAL, RELIGIOUS, AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF ALL CLASSES, HE RAISED THE COLONY TO UNEXAMPLED PROSPERITY, AND RETIRED AMID THE REVERENT AND AFFECTIONATE REGRET OF THE PEOPLE; HAVING WON THEIR CONFIDENCE BY HIS INTEGRITY, THEIR GRATITUDE BY HIS SERVICES, THEIR ADMIRATION BY HIS PUBLIC TALENTS, AND THEIR ESTEEM BY HIS PRIVATE WORTH.

The stranger may now retrace his steps to St. James's Church, and take a walk down Phillip-street; he will then have a good opportunity of seeing a part of the town possessing very opposite features to Macquarie Place. He must not forget, however, to take a look at the Supreme Court. Phillip-street is a good example of that part of the town which has not yet obtained a decided mastery over the country—for gardens are visible in many parts of it, apparently waiting for some friendly house to come and associate with them :

and from the variety of houses apart from each other, changing from the occasional edifice to the wooden box-hut of the merest village, the latter appearing to have no right to be there from its want of beauty, style, and symmetry, and great inferiority to the rest, must remind the reader of some little, conceited, and rude individuals occasionally seen in good society, who have got their position and insist upon keeping it.

Although one end of the street terminates in the best part of the town, a few paces will bring the stranger to the very opposite ; and for that reason I have chosen it. It has no pavement ; two or three houses may be seen, that, like young recruits, instead of marching forward have gone backwards from the usual line of the street at least three yards ; then a boarded enclosure, to be turned into garden or house ; here St. James's Grammar School ; then a building cut in two, as if fractured, which in reality is nothing but its not having attained its majority, by there being no upper stories in the shape of superstructure. Next is to be seen a little house inhabited by Mr. M'Laughlin, waiter, with a long flight of steps

up to his door, as if to indicate to the passer-by the extreme activity of Mr. M'Laughlin in his calling, and, consequently, symbolical of his walking capabilities; next a highly respectable dwelling with a good verandah, with "Mr. Joseph Bourgon, surgeon," on the door, indicating the vast superiority of a medical man over a waiter; then brick huts receding at least ten yards from the street line; next a gable end of a house instead of the front; then two handsome stone buildings by the side of a hut placed in a hole three yards below the level of the street. Phillip-street is neither macadamised nor paved. The best streets of Sydney occasionally show the original box-hut of the early settler.

The visitor may now walk through Catherine, and Castlereagh, and O'Connell streets, in which latter he will observe at the end, the Australian Club House, a spacious and convenient building. Similarly conducted to those of London, the *entré* to it is rather difficult, as its members are decidedly exclusives. O'Connell-street if it had been appropriately named should have been called Tree-street, for they grow there both beautifully

and numerously. Nearly all the public buildings and some of the best houses are built of a stone which is not surpassed in beauty by either Bath or Edinburgh. This stone is to be had from quarries quite near to the town, and a walk into Kent-street will show the geologist some of the most complete and beautiful strata I ever remember to have seen.

The visitor should after this take a glance at Wynard Terrace, which consists of very elegant houses, but totally wanting in either uniformity or unity of design. Afterwards a trip to Woolloomooloo, a distance of a mile from the town, will show him mansions as elegantly constructed, and gardens as beautifully laid out, as any to be found in Great Britain. One of them, I know, cost 30,000*l.* in its erection, and some others from 10,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* It is scarcely necessary to add that the *elite* of Sydney reside here. Many of these beautiful residences command extensive views of the harbour, and are situated on eminences surrounded by native timber, which has saved the owners the trouble and expense of planting. There, and in the Domain, may be

enumerated the following as the prevailing genera of trees :—*Leptospermum*, *Eucalyptus*, *Monotica*, *Banksia*, *Callitris* ; the scrub of *Angophora*, *Ricinocarpus*, *Hakea*, *Callistemon*, *Ceratopetalum*, *Epacris*.

An excursion to Baptist's Garden, a mile and a half from the town, would exhibit to the traveller a perfect African desert, which prevails in that part of the suburbs of Sydney ; and it appears most surprising, that the best garden, and the leading gardener of New South Wales, should be found in this very extraordinary locality. It must be remarked, however, that Mr. Baptist has considerably manured his ground, and, consequently, altered its sterile and silicious qualities, and made it very productive. The people of Sydney have apprehended, at times, the destruction of their beautiful city, from its proximity to these large and curious-looking mountains of sand ; for, when the wind blows high, which is not unfrequently the case, the light of heaven is nearly shut out by these singular showers of sand ; and, if it is accompanied with rain, woe betide that new coat, or

smartly-attired lady, who may happen to be caught in it. It entirely destroys the gloss of a new coat, which is for ever after more or less speckled. This wind is called a *brick-fielder*, from the circumstance, I believe, of its blowing from a quarter where bricks either are, or have been, made. Through the kindness of Mr. Baptist, I visited his garden twice, and saw many beautiful things of the country ; but could scarcely recognise some of our favourite English shrubs and trees, which they were trying to cultivate. I looked with astonishment at the common laurel, Portugal laurel, ash, oak, and others ; all appeared shrunk, altered, and frightened at the liberty taken with them, in transporting and transplanting them to an African-like desert, 16,000 miles from their fine old English soil, and their native home. The willow prospers more in New South Wales than any other English tree ; it has improved, like many of the people, by emigrating.

Before writing these remarks upon the fruit of Australia, I went into Mr. Israel's fruit-shop, of Covent Garden, and, without asking the price of a

single peach, I ate two, and one nectarine, for which I was charged four shillings—peaches, one shilling each, and the nectarine, two shillings. They were produced, of course, by artificial means, the time being the middle of the month of June.

Certain kinds of Australian fruit, I think, are the finest in the world, not excepting even those of Covent Garden market, with all that it can effect by science and artificial means. There are various kinds of peaches, and of various sizes; I have seen some as large as little turnips. Most of them are very delicious in flavour, and quite as good as the two purchased from Mr. Israel. The nectarines are fine also, and have a peculiarly beautiful tint which I have never seen in England, or in any other part of the world. The pears are equal in flavour to any in England, and some of them larger. The gardeners have cultivated, with great success, the Windsor and Bergamot. I tasted only once the Marie-Louise, and found it inferior to the two former. Their grapes, too, are most delicious. The apples are generally very inferior, but I have met with one or two

exceptions. Their fruit will not improve to a great extent, from the fact that it is the fashion to prefer quantity to quality; the horticulturist, therefore, is not encouraged to do his best; and they confessed to me that their trees were not properly grafted.

There are native fruits of an almost useless nature, and very absurdly named by the old settlers; such as the native pear, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, a hard, wooden, knobby thing, instead of a juicy fruit. The native currant, *Leptamenia acida*, bears but little resemblance to the English one; but I have been informed that both jam and wine are made from it. The native cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) is another ridiculous and useless appellation, although the tree itself is very beautiful. The native gooseberry, or groundberry (*Astroloma humifusum*), if I am rightly informed, I believe is used, and makes very good preserve. *Angophora lanceolata*, or apple-tree, has no resemblance whatever to a true apple-tree. There is also the native plum; I think the botanical name is *Cupama Australis*. I believe this is used as a preserve.

CLIMATE.

My experience of the climate of New South Wales will only extend over a period of five months, the time I remained in the colony ; which comprised chiefly the hottest season of the year, having landed on the 1st of October, 1851, (which is equivalent to April in England,) and embarked for London on the 17th of March, 1852, which stands in relation to the season the same as the month of September in our English climate. When I first landed at Sydney I found it warm, from the fact of my having quitted a colder country, and also from having experienced, during the passage, unusually cold weather. It is a climate, however, on the whole extremely healthy, as there are very few, if any, endemic diseases, or those that can truly be called Australian, or such as are affections of the soil. That it is a climate capable of allowing the full development of all the physical and mental faculties of the Anglo-Saxon race has been fully demonstrated by the English in a variety of ways during their possession of the Australian

continent. I was informed by Mr. Kemp, one of proprietors of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, that during the five months of my sojourn amongst them, the temperature was far above the average, and that it was the hottest summer they had experienced for many years. Notwithstanding the unusual heat, I undertook and completed a journey on foot of more than 120 miles in six consecutive days, averaging more than twenty miles a day, with a state of health far from good, and feeling less thirsty, and drinking less than I should have done in England, though performed in the middle of the month of November, four weeks before midsummer day, and consequently nearly approaching the hottest season of the year. It is only fair to state, however, that three days out of the six of peregrination were on the Blue Mountains, at an elevation of more than 2000 feet above the level of the sea.

An excursion, of this kind is very unusual even to travellers visiting the colony, and never undertaken by any man in Australia who can either buy, beg, borrow, or steal a horse ; and it

was considered a small kind of feat, especially for one who had passed the spring-time of youth, and whose health was none of the best. The ease with which I performed this journey I attributed to the fine climate of New South Wales. I have seen in the hottest weather, and during the hottest part of the day, workmen as busily engaged, and working as hard as if they had been in England. I learnt, after making frequent inquiry, that *coups de soleil* very seldom happen. When the hot winds blow, the heat is insufferably oppressive, and a temperature is produced sufficiently hot to cook all living animals more than enough! Independently of the hot winds I have found it at times intolerably oppressive.

The annual fall of rain in New South Wales is fifty inches: twenty inches have fallen in the short space of twenty-four hours. I have seen the streets of Sydney so inundated with water after a heavy rain, that any individual, anxious for a new style of conveyance, might make his morning calls upon his friends in a boat, and cast anchor at the front door.

PEOPLE.

When I first landed at Sydney I was very much surprised to see so fine a town, but more astonished and pleased in observing the people so well dressed, so well behaved, and altogether so wonderfully altered for the better : for the people who are known to have emigrated to that part of the world consist chiefly of a class who, prior to their leaving the British Isles, were lucky if the sum total of their corporeal bodies were entirely encased in any kind of clothing whatever ; and the garments worn by some of this class, from the number of orifices, small and great, to be seen in them, might not inaptly be termed the well-ventilated costume. It is perfectly surprising how quickly the immigrants, after their landing, assume not only a better style of dress, but also a better style of manners, and this applies more or less to all the colonies. I have always been struck, on my first landing in England, whether from the continent, or from our colonies, with the impression that the poor people were worse clad, and worse mannered

than the same class in any other part of the world, and in no part of the world is this sudden transformation effected sooner than in New South Wales.

In society the native Australian (of course I mean the whites, not the aborigines,) is a most agreeable person; he possesses a vivacity of manner far more allied to the French than to ourselves. The conversation goes on; no *ums* and *ahs*, or monosyllabic style. The women are extremely gay and lively, and very fond of dancing, notwithstanding the hot climate; and the hotter it is, the better they dance. They are extremely fond of music, and many of them play very well; and I am sure there are as many pianos to be found in Sydney as in any other town in the world of the same population. Both men and women, however, lose that healthy look which is ever characteristic of an English face; the colour goes, and the cheek shrinks, with the skin either wrinkled or loose, and assumes a coarse or sun-burnt aspect; this is partly the effect of the climate, but chiefly attributable to their bad habit of drinking too much spirits and

tea, and from excessive smoking also. At the sheep-stations, in the Squatting districts, tea is the principal beverage, and I believe that in a single week many of the old shepherds will drink as much tea as would drown themselves, and in sufficient quantity to make an excellent warm bath.

The Sydney people are said to be exceedingly smart and sharp in their dealing, and I have heard it asserted that even the Yankees cannot overreach them. I conversed with a many people, after telling them I was a mere visitor to their shores, which induced them to be more communicative to me; and frequently put the question—"How do you like the people in this part of the world?" The answer in general and almost invariably was—"They are very insincere."

An author (if an honest man) when treating on any subject, is bound to speak the great truth, whether it bring him profit or loss; reputation, or the loss of it; friends or enemies, fame, or even martyrdom itself. The causes of this insincerity I think may be very

easily traced. The first settlers were convicts; some of the immigrants do not comprise the best specimens of humanity. Many people have gone out to the colony and stated themselves to be the very contrary of what they actually were; and they have availed themselves of all the advantages of a false position; and the immense distance of the colony from the mother country has favoured this disposition to exaggerate and misrepresent the true state of an individual emigrating to this part of the world.

Being connected with the Geological and Linnæan Societies of London, and having ascertained that the Hon. Deas Thompson, Colonial Secretary, Charles Nicholson, Esq., M.D., the Speaker of the Legislative Council, and Mr. M'Clean, the well-known naturalist, were fellows of those societies, I took the liberty of calling upon them, without any letter of introduction, not forgetting, however, to put the initials F.G.S. F.L.S., on my card. I do not find fault with them for not returning my call, for, in a country where our proverb which says that "every man is honest until he is

found out to be a rogue" is reversed—viz., that "every man is a rogue until he has proved himself to be honest,"—it will perfectly justify them from withholding that courtesy which might otherwise have been exercised towards me. However, I am bound to acknowledge, that, at the opening of the Legislative Council, when I presented myself as an English physician on his travels, I was civilly invited to the best part of the house, where I took my seat among the great dignitaries of that assembly. I afterwards visited the Legislative Council during their discussions, and found them also equally courteous; for, when asked by a functionary what member I was acquainted with, in order to have the *entrée*, and having answered "None," he, very kindly exerted himself on the part of a poor, unfortunate, unintroduced pilgrim, and succeeded in getting me the signature of a very dignified member of the Council, Dr. Dobie; to whom I beg leave here most respectfully to tender my best thanks for this act of kindness. I have also to acknowledge the courtesy of Dr. Douglas, a member of the Council, for

his very kind invitation to be present at the close of the session, and also for a great variety of political information. I am particularly bound to remember with feelings of gratitude the attention of all the heads of the various institutions of Sydney, for their attention and kindness, and the great civility of the shopkeepers, when I wished to see their establishments, or to ask for information of any kind—and also to the humbler classes of society for their marked respect whenever and wherever I met with them.

I have spoken of the insincerity of the people; I may connect with it a peculiarity of look—for want of a better name I shall call it the Sydney-look: it is a mixture of suspicion and curiosity—so penetrating in its glance, so anxious to discern the real character of an individual, and to unravel all the deep and secret workings of his mind, that it very much reminded me of a very satirical eulogium of a distinguished physician who had no faith in the stethoscope—"That it was as good as any other instrument to look through a thick

stone wall." I observed this remarkable peculiarity of the countenance immediately on my first landing in Sydney. I attended places of worship of various sects and denominations, and I must state that the Sydney people formed the most attentive and exemplary congregations I ever witnessed.

With a few exceptions, the majority of the merchants of Sydney were originally clerks, and this will throw some light upon the subject of money-getting,—showing that it is in the power of men without capital, and above all if they are lucky, to accumulate fortunes more rapidly than in England, and certainly much sooner than in most of the British colonies, and consequently to become leading men in the capital of the southern hemisphere. The squatters, or those belonging to the grazing or wool-growing interest, on the other hand, are, many of them, the sons of English gentlemen, and several of them connected with the aristocracy of Great Britain. I lived in the *Café Parisien*: a commodious and elegantly furnished establishment, where an individual is required to be introduced,

either as an honorary member, or proposed and seconded after the fashion of our London clubs. It is principally a place for the squatters; but merchants, clerks, and others belong to it. During my sojourn there of several weeks, I was much struck with the well-dressed and well-behaved persons, who had risen, many of them entirely by their own exertions, mixing with the well-bred and even with the aristocratic squatter. This will readily account for the sudden improvement of the Sydney people; and the Botanic Garden is open at all times, and to all classes of the community, without payment, to enjoy one of the most beautiful promenades I have ever seen, and to improve their taste at the same time. They possess, also, a very beautiful museum, open twice a week, free of any charge. They have, besides, a theatre, circus, casino; insurance offices; building societies; an exchange; a chamber of commerce; a splendid subscription library; a trust company; a sugar company; a cemetery society; a botanic and horticultural society; a lunatic asylum; a female refuge society; a Dorcas charity; a female school of

industry; a New South Wales Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society; a religious tract society; a Church of England lay association; an Australian board of missions; a diocesan board of missions for the diocese of Sydney; the Australian Society for the encouragement of arts, science, commerce, and agriculture; a vineyard association, for promoting the culture of the vine, and inter-communication of such information as may be deemed valuable to turn its proceeds to the best and most profitable account; a mechanic school of arts and a university.

It has been said that M'Quarrie, one of the early governors of New South Wales, was a very great friend of the convicts; so much so as to make that severe remark upon immigrants: viz., "that the country consisted of those who had been transported, and those who ought to have been." It is very true that to some of the people who have emigrated to all parts of the world, the words of Governor M'Quarrie might be very justly applied; and many who do not deserve transportation are very useless creatures as members of a community.

A gentleman applied to me the other day, wishing to know whether Australia, or New Zealand, was the best place to send a young lady to, who, if not sharply watched, would bring disgrace on her friends. This, then, will afford us some notion of part of the materials which have built up the social fabric of the town of Sydney. Add to the above, the fact that there are more public-houses in Sydney than in any town in England of the same size—that it is a seaport, with no lack of sailors, who are not the quietest people in the world, especially after a long voyage—that convicts founded the place;—yet, with all these untoward elements and conditions, I challenge England to show more decorum, and a better-behaved people, than the streets of Sydney present, night or day, in any of her inland towns, where neither convicts, immigrants, or sailors are to be met with!! nor the same number of public-houses!!!

A comparison suggests itself: it is well known to sailors that the Thames water, when first put into the tanks to be sent from home, is dirty and foul, but after performing a voyage to the

antipodes it becomes clear and wholesome, and is as much prized as the pure mountain stream ! Here, then, we see the mysterious workings of the ways of Providence in producing good out of evil. " But every medal has its reverse," and we must now look at the other side of the picture.

I have stated in another part of the work that clothes might be purchased cheaper in Sydney than in London. The explanation of this was very readily given me by an old member of the Legislative Council, who very briefly stated, " that sometimes they were not paid for ;" and I was informed by one who was well acquainted with the Sydney people as a trader, that, in days gone by, commercial houses in Europe gave them agencies, and that, when they wrote to the agents, they had the greatest possible difficulty in getting an answer, and sometimes were never replied to at all. In conversing with an old shopkeeper long resident in the country upon this topic, he remarked that the mother country first set the fashion in some of these performances, and he was not at all surprised at New South Wales having children

bearing a resemblance to their mother, especially as many of them were bad and disobedient.

The precocity of the Australian youth, to be properly understood and believed, can only be fully appreciated by being an eye-witness to some of these very extraordinary young creatures. I have seen a girl of ten years of age possess all the manner of an old lady of sixty; she would flirt with three men at a time, and have a ready answer for them when teasing her,—would move like an accomplished actress,—manipulate gracefully,—play whist, chess, and other games, and talk about getting married:—this child, for such I must call her, was a greater mental giant than O'Brien, with his moving mountain of flesh, and far more entertaining than twenty Tom Thumbs.

JOURNEY TO THE DIGGINGS.

I started for the Turon diggings in the month of November, taking Paramatta in the way which is not the direct road, but having to call upon a gentleman at Liverpool, I proceeded first to Paramatta. There are steamboats twice

a day to Paramatta, a distance by water, perhaps, of twenty miles. The ride in the steamboat is a very agreeable one, and through a part of the country well worth seeing, but the day unfortunately turning out rainy, and very boisterous, gave me but little opportunity of getting on deck; and being subsequently deprived of the best companion that a traveller can have (money), prevented me from re-visiting this very interesting and much-frequented part of the colony. I arrived at Paramatta late in the evening, and left it early next morning with the intention of returning at some future period; but was prevented from the unfortunate circumstance previously alluded to.

The Governor has a very good residence there, which I visited; it is something similar to a country squire's house, standing in the middle of a tolerably spacious park. There is one of the largest hotels in the colony at Paramatta, where I found myself comfortably lodged, and very reasonably charged. Paramatta contains a population of 4128 souls, and possesses many pretty residences and good gardens, and everything that

is desirable in civilised life. Omnibuses run to and from Sydney several times a day, the distance being fifteen miles. The next morning I started early on foot for Liverpool, a distance of eighteen miles, leaving my carpet-bag behind to follow me. The day was very hot ; but being bounded on both sides by a wood, I contrived to shelter myself from the scorching rays of the sun ; and I had an excellent opportunity of looking at the timber of an Australian forest. I found it totally dissimilar in its growth, trees, and appearance, to anything I had previously seen in any part of Europe or North America. I had far too much of sylvan scenery, for it completely shut out the views, and the road was densely wooded all the way to Liverpool, very little diversified with either house or cottage : a lonely and dreary clay road, where bush-rangers (robbers) were very numerous in bygone times, and where a stranger stood a good chance of being robbed even at the time I passed through it. Liverpool is a wide straggling village, with not more than 392 inhabitants ; it has some most excellent houses, and beautiful gardens, which

might be bought very cheap, or rather to be had for asking, as the business people are leaving. Liverpool would be a most desirable locality for people in England who possess small incomes, and who wish to retire from the din and bustle of a town without engaging in any commercial pursuit. It is surrounded by some of the most beautiful forest (bush) scenery I have seen in New South Wales ; and good society may be had in the neighbourhood.

Having left a card upon Mr. Swainson, the well-known naturalist of Wellington, New Zealand, at Sydney, who happened to pay a visit to New South Wales at the time I was there, he returned my call, and proposed that I should accompany him to the diggings, and for that purpose I made a short *détour* to join him at Liverpool, where he had been remaining some time with the Rev. Mr. Walker, the clergyman of the place, an excellent scholar, and one well acquainted with the natural history of his neighbourhood. We made a trip to the bush to examine the botany of the district. Mr. Swainson, I should imagine from his countenance,

is bordering upon seventy: I was perfectly astonished at his activity; there are very few boys at seventeen able to beat him in fast walking, and for length of time as well; and his enthusiasm for the pursuit of natural history is as fervid as ever, and I should suppose, judging from appearances, will remain as long as he can make use of his legs to carry him into a wood. I saw some enormous blue gum-trees (*Eucalypti*) with their singularly coloured bark, and curiously marked with long patches of divers colours, so as to resemble the skin of an animal rather than a tree. The iron-bark, another species of *Eucalyptus*; the stringy-bark *Eucalyptus*, so named from its being used as a substitute for string; *Angophora lanceolata*, apple-tree; *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, native cherry; with *Leptospermums* and *Metrosideros*; and many others, which my short visit would not allow me to be further acquainted with in this very beautiful locality. After passing through a very densely-wooded part of the bush, frequently the traveller will suddenly come to a beautifully undulating country, with magnificent trees growing singly, and in groups, in a

manner, precisely similar to such as may be found in our English parks; and there are thousands of acres of these park-like districts, which require only a house to be built to form suitable residences for the best of our English aristocracy. I started next morning alone on foot, leaving Mr. Swainson, taking a guide with me for the first three or four miles out of Liverpool, for the town of Penrith, a distance perhaps of twenty miles. The route I took was not a regular road; sometimes a foot-path, then very little track to be seen, and principally the bush. I succeeded in finding the way tolerably well for the first ten miles, after which I entered the bush again, a very dense forest, and at last I was completely lost, being fully persuaded that I was walking upon the recently adopted principle of great circle sailing, with this difference, that my course lengthened the distance instead of shortening it. Mr. Swainson the previous day had cautioned me when entering any part of the bush, if not provided with a pocket-compass never to leave a foot-path, or any object by which the true course might be readily ascertained; and related the following unfortunate story:—

An officer started from Paramatta to go to Liverpool; but leaving the ordinary track with a view of cutting short the journey, got lost, and perished in the bush. The poor unfortunate man finding himself completely foiled in his attempt to regain his true course, saw, no doubt, that his last moments were approaching; wrote his name and address upon his cap which was afterwards found: he, however, was never heard of again."

This story of Mr. Swainson's came with all its force into my mind, and I must say that I felt angry with myself for having left behind me a pocket-compass. I had not begun to despair at all, but kept walking on until I at last came to a part of the bush which opened to my delighted eyes a well-built house, indicating that some person of taste must have built it, or most probably be living in it. I lost no time in approaching it, and passed over some cleared land beautifully fenced in, and laid down with grass, which brought to mind many a residence I had seen in old England. As I approached the house I saw no indications of life, no dog, no poultry, and the front door I found fastened.

I took the liberty of looking in at the window, and soon saw that there might be spirits good or evil in it, but there was a poor probability of finding living bodies, as there was not one single article of furniture to be seen, or anything that indicated the presence of a living soul. I then shouted out lustily, and to my great surprise and delight an individual made his appearance. I refreshed myself with such as the house contained, chatted about the colony, examined some very fine specimens of cattle, and then proceeded on my way to Penrith.

I at last came to the main road at a village about five miles from Penrith, where I stopped all night. The next day I marched into the town or village which contains a population of 416 people, with many excellent houses, and good gardens; with pleasant green fields in front; a prospect clearly showing that English taste had made its way to Penrith. A most beautiful residence may be seen here belonging to Sir John Jameson. I now prepared for the diggings, by purchasing a blue flannel shirt, not to wear as such, but to be placed

outside of every other garment, the prevailing costume of gentlemen in New Zealand when going to the sheep-stations, and of the diggers in New South Wales. Observing a fine chain of mountains suddenly rising to a considerable height very near to Penrith, I made up my mind to start on foot, and afterwards take the coach to the town of Bathurst. I became so much pleased with this mountain scenery, and walked on through the wild bush with so little fatigue to myself, that I determined to proceed on foot all the way to Bathurst. I have previously alluded to this journey, when speaking of the climate of New South Wales.

To give a particular description of each day's journey would occupy too many pages of my book; suffice it to say that the road constructed some twenty years ago over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst passes some beautiful cuttings, especially the one at Hartly, a small village, which unfolds some of the most picturesque scenes I have ever beheld; that the road was a very good one when first finished I have no doubt, but when I travelled on it, it was in such a state that it was a disgrace to

the Anglo-Saxon race. I met every day on the road a great number of carts and waggons laden with merchandise and other provisions for the Turon diggings. The whole of the way from Penrith to Bathurst is comprised in the Blue Mountain range, that being its breadth, a distance of about eighty miles. It is bush all the way; or, to use an English expression, the road goes through a wood for eighty miles uninterruptedly. There are comfortable houses all the way, where refreshments may be had, but much higher than formerly, and where they are realising more money and making fortunes more rapidly than many of the diggers. I invariably stopped to talk with all the diggers I met with returning to Sydney, and found them extremely civil, and always ready to answer any question relating to the life, habits, and manners of a gold-digger.

Upon one occasion I suddenly came upon a group of some eight or ten, when the countenance of one man appeared to me the most roguish and brigand-like in its aspect, so much so as to make me congratulate myself when I wished them "good-bye." I passed a hundred

localities where the bush-ranger might have robbed me very easily ; with 20*l.* in my pocket and a gold watch and chain, which I took care to render as invisible as possible underneath the gracefully flowing flannel shirt that I wore. I traversed this wild and peculiar scene all alone, everywhere unfolding the peculiarities of Australian vegetation, which is remarkable for its monotony, as the leaves of the trees are small and very dull-looking in their aspect ; and in the various cuttings of the road were displayed the geological features of the country, which consisted of granite and metamorphic rocks. I met with a splendid shrub, called by the natives the Tulip-tree or shrub (*Telopea speciosissima*) ; it has one of the most peculiarly beautifully bunched flowers I ever saw ; the petals are very close and compact, globular in form, and the flower as large as a fair-sized field turnip, and beautifully red. The bullock-drivers use it as an ornament to the heads of their horses. Hundreds of scarlet and green birds (King Parrots) crossed the road at every turn, amid many scenes of peculiar beauty, which can never be forgotten. I averaged about

twenty miles a-day, and at last found myself descending gradually to Bathurst Plains, as they are called.

These plains, instead of being lowlands, on the contrary are some of the finest hills and valleys I have ever seen, many of them without a single tree for several miles. The town of Bathurst stands in the centre of the Plains, containing a population of 2252: has many highly respectable families residing there, and is about thirty miles from Ophir, and the same distance to the Turon. Gold has been found in its streets. The Plains surround the town, and are used as sheep-stations, and consist entirely of grass without any partition or fence. When the traveller ascends one of these high hills, at a distance of a mile-and-a-half from Bathurst, he will have a view of the town, which, like the hills that surround him, stands in a lonely, green, treeless, unpartitioned ocean of grass; other hills of a conical form will appear, with a few trees scattered over the surface, like an English park; and in the back-ground again may be seen the primeval forest of Australia: this, when seen at

evening, with the serene and silvery and golden sky (this transparent and brilliant silvery hue is the peculiarity of the sky) of an Australian sunset, presents a scene for beauty and peculiarity that I have never seen surpassed in Italy, America, the tropics, the West Indies, or in any other part of the world.

I mounted the mail-cart and quitted Bathurst for the Turon. We got on smoothly for a little while, and then began sundry tossings up and down, which reminded one more of a vessel at sea than anything else. Many dreadful accidents have happened from bad roads, untrained horses, and drunken drivers. We came, at last, to a hill so high that all dismounted and walked much longer than the heat of the day rendered agreeable; here was a magnificent view of the Golden Regions; and further on commenced the descent of a steep hill to the gorge of the Turon. The roads, instead of being gravelled, are formed merely by the removal of the trees, and are, therefore, natural roads; and the descent of some parts is so steep and dangerous near to the Turon, that to prevent the drays and carts

being hurled to destruction, they attach large and ponderous trees to the back-part to steady them ; and hundreds of these trees are left, almost stopping up the way, when they have descended sufficiently far to proceed securely without this curious species of land-helm. After this, the Turon, with its thousands of white tents became visible, resembling a large army encamped. There were no houses to be seen ; occasionally a weather-boarded building, covered at the top with canvas. Such was a specimen at Sofala, the very centre of the Turon diggings, when I dismounted very gladly from the mail-coach, where, in making the descent to the Turon, by the side of a steep hill, the coachman persuaded me to retain my seat, instead of dismounting with the other passengers ; which I consented to do. This was to balance the fellow ; for he informed me, when I remarked how dangerous it was, and when it was next to impossible to stop, that he was the only coachman who had not been precipitated, coach and horses, down the hill : very consolatory, thought I, to be made use of thus as mere ballast.

ARRIVAL AT THE TURON DIGGINGS.

Before giving any further description of the diggings, I will briefly make mention of those who lay claim to the discovery of gold. Humboldt, the celebrated traveller and naturalist, was the first to show that gold was found in rocks which had a meridian course, that is, in mountain ranges which have a direction from north to south. In California, the Ural, and Australia, all the great mountain ranges that produce gold, have this meridian bearing from north to south. There are exceptions, however, to this, in some of the spurs which branch out laterally from the main chain, east or west, as the case may be. Sir Roderick Impey Murchison suggested to the Government, in 1844, that gold in all probability would be found in Australia, from the similarity of the structure of the Australian mountain-ranges to those of the Ural; and a Mr. Smith actually discovered some portions of the precious metal. The Rev. Mr. Clarke, a gentleman who has paid great attention to the geology of Australia, discovered

gold in 1841, produced specimens of it, and presented them to the Government. An old shepherd, of the name of Macgregor, sold specimens of gold at Sydney for some time, without revealing his secret.

Mr. Hargraves, a man entirely unknown to science, went to the Californian diggings, where he was not successful. He was much struck with the analogy that existed between the Californian strata and those of Bathurst District, where he had previously resided. He returned to that neighbourhood expressly to search for gold, which he discovered on the 12th of February, 1851. On the 6th of May following, the discovery was publicly made known by Mr. Hargraves, and a few days after a party, fully equipped for the purpose, started for the locality of Ophir.

I have conversed with twenty Australians who informed me that as soon as they had worked at the Californian diggings, they were quite convinced that gold would be found in Australia; and I have but little doubt that every Australian who had dug at California, if at all acquainted

with Australian strata as mere miners, were of the same opinion. The gold discovery, therefore, has been made by one whose opinion seemed to be entertained by hundreds of others; but it possesses this peculiar merit, that Mr. Hargraves was the first to return to Bathurst and search for the precious metal.

I will now speak of the regulations at the Turon respecting the diggers. Every person digging is compelled by law to pay 30s. per month to a commissioner, which entitles him to a claim (as it is called), which consists of fifteen feet frontage by the side of a river or creek; or twenty feet of the bed of a tributary to a river or main creek; or sixty feet of the bed of a ravine or water-course; or twenty feet square of table-land, or river-flats. This claim, after the license has been duly paid to the commissioner, may be sold to other parties, which is frequently done. Some of these claims have sold as high as 700*l*. It not unfrequently happens that when a claim is to be sold, there is a good deal of roguery going on: and it is done in the following manner. When the party who sells is exhibiting

the nature of the soil, another person drops in a small quantity of gold, which is not perceived by the purchaser. It is afterwards washed and shown to contain the precious metal. The matrix, or birth-place of gold, is quartz, which has been broken up by a variety of causes, and carried by the action of water into rivers and creeks, where it is deposited a second time. It may be found, therefore, in its original place of deposit, or where it was first created, or in other parts to which it has travelled by the action of water.

At the Turon, there are both dry and wet diggings: the wet are those which consist of the deposit of the river,—the dry, those which are at some distance from it, and which contain no water. I examined one of the most productive mines of Golden Point, and I found it to contain gravel and soil at the top, and lower down a conglomerate of many different kinds of stones, or boulders, strongly bearing the mark of ignigenous action. I was informed, when examining the mine, which was a very hard one to work, requiring the pick-axe to break the stones,

that in certain little corners, called pockets, the nuggets were principally found. A nugget (a small piece of gold) is visible enough, and when gold is mixed with any other rock it is frequently disseminated in such masses as to be recognised at once; but, when mixed with earth, its particles are so small as not to be recognised at all by the naked eye; and, to obtain it, it is necessary to be cradled; which is done in the following manner. The cradle consists of the hopper and slide, which take in and out, and three compartments at the bottom. The hopper is the top part, upon which the soil is placed, with holes through which the earth and gold pass, leaving the large stones; with one man rocking, while another, provided with an apparatus called a dipper, pours water upon the mass of earth and stones. The hopper is then removed, after having riddled the large stones aside; the slide then appears, which has a surface without any small holes, but has a large opening at one end, through which other portions of the soil and gold pass to the bottom of the cradle. The fine earth is then taken from the hopper and bottom of the cradle, and placed in a

tin dish, and washed very carefully in such manner as to leave the gold at the bottom. The noise produced by cradling is very peculiar, and quite loud enough when many thousands are going together. Thousands of them are to be seen and heard by the side of the River Turon, as the people preferred the wet to the dry diggings. The following statement will show how individual effort may succeed :—

A man obtained 350*l.* worth of gold in a few hours. Another 440*l.* worth in one day. A poor man collected 9 lb. of gold in one day. A man named Brenan laid hold of a lump which, when sold, fetched 1155*l.* A black fellow dug up a huge mass of quartz which yielded 106 lb. of gold, worth 4240*l.* Many men made their 25*l.* a week. I worked with a party, for a few hours, whose earnings were a pound per day: Mr. Hardy, a gold commissioner, has stated, in one of his reports, that any man might earn his ten shillings a day. I was much struck with the good order preserved in a wild mountain-gorge, where the only preventive to evil-doers was a mere handful of police, all of whom might have

been annihilated in five minutes by 500 diggers armed with their mining tools. When I visited the Turon, the population amounted to 10,000 or 12,000; but probably no more than half that number were digging; and, taking them altogether, they were not half so noisy as the rabble at an English race, and on the whole much better behaved.

The following may be taken as specimens of life at the diggings:—

I remained two or three nights with Mr. King, one of the commissioners, in the Government tent, and afterwards went to one of the best lodging establishments to be found at the Turon. When breakfasting there one morning with a very agreeable companion, he said,—“Did you observe the lady of our lodging take one of the sheets from my bed and put it on the table for breakfast, being perfectly persuaded that it made an excellent table-cloth?” I only met with one case of incivility during my sojourn at the diggings, and that was from a drunken man one Sunday morning. The rogue took a particular dislike not only to the *tout ensemble* of my appearance,

but to a big heavy New Zealand stick which I carried; and also to a green hat, very broad in the brim, and very shabby; both of which he took care to anathematise in a very loud, and often-repeated coarse stammering voice—so loud that I was perfectly ashamed of the fellow, and immediately beat a retreat to a large tent, which I observed at a short distance; this turned out to be the new church then erecting, and, observing a gentleman in black (the bishop's chaplain), I immediately walked up to him and commenced conversation by the side of several other serious, and well-behaved church-going people; when, to my great annoyance, the scoundrel, who was then at a distance of 300 yards, shouted out with voice of thunder—"I shall know you again, you blackguard in the green hat and big thick stick." I then joined the congregation, and attended divine service. I soon observed, on the three front forms nearest to the bishop, that two-thirds of the people there seated were gentlemen, although garbed in red and blue serge shirts, and disguised to the best of their ability! A collection was made afterwards,

which amounted to 22*l.*, all the people giving freely.

The bishop is said to be Puseyite. I attended the afternoon service, and found quite another class of diggers present, and all of them nearly of the same stamp—viz., hard-working men; with idlers, and probably some rogues, who, when the plate made its appearance for a collection, all bolted, to a man, without giving a single sixpence, to the great astonishment of the metropolitan Bishop of Sydney, Dr. Broughton, who very soon found himself in solitude, and utterly confounded. It all arose from the bishop not sending the plate round before giving the benediction. In the evening, I observed a crowd, and hastened to see what was going on. On nearing it, I saw clearly that it was a preaching; but had my suspicions excited to believe that it might be a congregation of pickpockets, from seeing an idiotic-looking man curiously grimacing, in the most remarkable manner possible. Having ascertained more fully the nature of the meeting, I clearly saw that it was a *bonâ fide* congregation of religionists, and

that this grimacing individual was a drunken man, who had placed himself by the side of the preacher, and insisted upon singing, notwithstanding several of his companions tried to get him away. The poor preacher, like a true disciple of his great master, exercised the greatest possible patience and forbearance, and did not utter one word of remonstrance.

I shall conclude this sketch of the diggings with a word or two on wages, and the price of provisions.

Stores of all kinds are obtainable at reasonable rates; that is to say, at from 20 to 30 per cent. on Sydney prices; which, when the wretched state of the roads, and the consequent expense of carriage, is taken into consideration, cannot be objected to. Bread is dear—9*d.* the 2 lb. loaf; good meat can be obtained at 2*d.* per lb. Miners' tools are cheaper than in Sydney.

There are a great many men who are employed by others to dig for them. For a labourer, capable of doing a good day's work, the general wages are 30*s.* a-week, and rations of beef, tea, flour, and sugar, given him besides. A good

Cornish miner will make from 4*l.* to 5*l.* a-week. In the township, labourers get from 5*s.* to 7*s.* a-day: mechanics, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a-day; and, for a few days, when there was a great press, carpenters, who are more required than other tradesmen, could make 1*l.* per day.

A single person might live very well on from 12*s.* to 16*s.* a-week.

The diseases prevalent at the town were ophthalmia and diarrhœa—the former arising from the bite of a fly, and commonly termed *blight*, and not at all a serious complaint. The rocks, which only now and then made their appearance, were metamorphic. The soil, thrown out from mines, was of every imaginable colour and quality—clayey, marshy, ditchy, sandy. After having penetrated through the soil, the bed-rock (so termed by the miners) varied in its depth in different mines. Gold has been found in clay-slate, iron-stone, quartz, and blue-clay. The quantity of gold shipped from Sydney, at the time that I left, was about one million sterling.

In looking over the botany of the town, I found the following genera, seven of which are British;

viz., *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina*, *Geranium*, *Viola*, *Cerastium*, *Papaver*, *Urtica*, *Malva*, *Ranunculus*.

I was quite astonished to find such a generic analogy to British plants, having previously observed so little resemblance in every part that I had visited. I met with no British species.

Thousands of Australians left their native land for California, when the El Dorado first became known; but since the discovery of the golden regions in Australia, numbers of them have returned.

After I quitted the Turon, I was sorry to hear of the Americans, who came to visit the shores of Australia, either to dig or make a trip of pleasure, being hooted and insulted at their diggings;—so much so as to compel them to pack up and return to California. The diggers, in so doing, I think, have shown a want of taste, sympathy, and even hospitality, to that people, who are not only of the same flesh and blood as themselves, but who brought with them the strong ties of relationship, —members of the same great family, who have attained to a state of civilisation, wealth, and commerce, to which the page of history offers no

parallel. That the Australians should have thus stultified themselves, will be a matter of deep regret to every well-wisher of the Anglo-Saxon race.

I was sorry to find in Sydney, and in every part of Australia that I visited, the deepest-rooted prejudices, and most unreasonable antipathy to the Americans. I took up the weapons of defence, and always supported the American people, by which I made more enemies than friends, and for which I was considered especially cracked.

TRIP TO WOLLONGONG.

Wishing to see one of the best agricultural and grazing districts, I left Sydney, per steamer, in the month of December (then summer), for Wollongong—a distance of fifty miles. I was much pleased to find Mr. Swainson journeying to the same part.

The town of Wollongong contains a population of 501 souls. It is expected to become the Brighton of New South Wales, from its beautiful shores, pleasant rides, from the very lovely country which is to be found in every direction;

and from its being esteemed much healthier and much cooler than Sydney. The geological character of the country entirely differs from that of Sydney, having a trap-rock formation; while the vegetation possesses also many striking differences by having a more tropical aspect. The cabbage-palm (*Corypha*) is found here; the *Ficus* (or fig-tree), a tree of most peculiar growth, and immense proportions—so large as to resemble a little vegetable kingdom of itself. I found growing near the coast the *Anagallis arvensis*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, both British species; and a *trifolium*, probably belonging to the British Flora. These were the only British species I met with during the whole of my peregrinations in New South Wales, and I should think it most probable that they were introduced, as there exists extensive cultivation of both grasses and grain all over the neighbourhood. There is a coal-mine in the vicinity, but the coal is not of the best quality in the world; it possesses one peculiarity, however, that of having no shaft to descend; the stranger can walk into it as into a cave, the entrance to it being perfectly horizontal.

I remained a few days at the Marine Hotel, where I was remarkably well treated by the landlord. I then started on foot, quite alone, with the intention of going to Kiama, a distance of thirty miles, especially as every one informed me that the road was good, and so easy to find that none but an idiot could mistake it. I walked through a most lovely country, displaying to the right and left well fenced fields, with grass and clover growing most luxuriantly, and plentifully stocked with oxen and horses. I have seen points of breeding in some of the Australian cattle so fine as to surpass even many of our English breeds; and here I speak advisedly, having conversed with some of the best judges in the country: some of their horses are very well bred, having a good deal of the Arabian in their blood; a great majority, however, are ugly enough.

The system of farming adopted here, as in all other parts of New South Wales, must amuse some of our agriculturists; it is as follows:—

The land is scarcely ever manured—the crops are frequently self-sown—they are never cleaned nor hoed—and it is no uncommon practice to have

seventeen white crops in succession. I very rarely met with hay; the Australians substitute oats for that article. I have been told that they are capable of growing sixty, seventy, and even eighty bushels per acre upon some of their richest soils. After passing Dapto, where I refreshed myself, I walked further on my way, and suddenly came upon two equestrian travellers (who looked at me with utter surprise to see a man with such a good coat on his back on foot—they evidently doubted my sanity), who very kindly informed me that there was a river higher up, which I could easily cross by tucking up my trousers, and taking off my shoes and stockings. But when I came to the river I thought on snakes, and suddenly turned again, and fortunately discovered a ferry, where I learnt that there was not much danger from the snakes, but that the sting-ray, *Trygon pastinaca*, was nearly as bad.

The birds in the bush were the most lovely imaginable, and one of them the ugliest of the family of *Aves*; but at the same time a most useful creature, inasmuch as he is a great

destroyer of many kinds of deadly poisonous snakes, which he executes in the most efficient manner, by suddenly laying hold with his beak, and afterwards flying to a great elevation and letting go, probably terminating his *high calling* with a considerable pecking at the reptile, after its senses have been pretty well stunned, and many portions of its vertebral column have undergone fracture from the fall. This bird is called the laughing jackass (*Dacelo gigantea*) from his laughing, I suppose, as loud as a donkey can bray. The laugh when executed as I have heard it at times, is the perfection of *crescendo* and *diminuendo* and the *rallentando* of music.

After crossing the river, and passing some bush, I came to a beautiful grazing district, artificially cultivated, entirely stocked with cows, many of them most beautiful creatures. There was not a single sheep to be seen; sheep belong to the Squatting districts, a very different kind of country, previously described. In this district I saw such crops of wheat as I never beheld in the most fertile parts of England; and I am not speaking without some experience, for I have

visited every county in England except two, and the whole of Scotland, and I am confident that nothing similar can be found in either country to equal the wheat I saw growing in the district of Illawarra for height, size of ear, and quantity of straw. After this I again entered the bush, expecting (as I had been previously told) to find a certain and direct road to a place called Jambaroo, where I intended to take up my lodgings for the night.

The afternoon was advancing when I entered the bush and said good-bye to the fine cows, beautiful plains, to this bread-and-butter-and-cheese district of Illawarra, for such it is *par excellence*, having some of the best dairy stations in New South Wales. I walked on at a good pace, having no forebodings of what was going to happen, when it came suddenly into my head, that the seven or eight miles (the distance I had to go) ought to have terminated and brought to view the village of Jambaroo. I marched still further for some time, when I felt quite confident that the distance I had walked was nearer sixteen than eight miles. I continued on, and having no pocket-

compass, I began to despair of reaching Jambaroo that night.

It was summer-time, in the middle of a wild wood, containing snakes whose bite was deadly poisonous; many of them on the move in the night, and more ferocious during the hot weather—this came with all its force into my cranium: next the pleasure of sleeping all night in a wood, with the possibility of having one of these poisonous reptiles for a bed-fellow; third, the unpleasant thought of going to bed without my supper (rendered more annoying from the gnawings of a hungry stomach at the time); and these heavy reflections were neither lightened nor brightened from the pleasing prospect I had in view, viz., that of getting up next morning without my breakfast. In the middle of all these moanings and lamentations a house appeared, where I learnt that I had blundered exceedingly, and I was put into the right road for Jambaroo, which I reached just as it was getting dark, with a light heart but a very empty stomach.

As I have mentioned the subject of snakes, I will relate a few particulars which I gathered in

different parts of the colony. The most dangerous of all is the death or deaf adder, an extremely sluggish and indolent reptile, which never bites unless trod upon ; it is almost certain death, and that in a very short time. The brown snake ; very dangerous, but not fatal if the proper remedies are employed in time. The black snake ; a very poisonous reptile, but not necessarily fatal. I had the following stories related to me. A person informed me that his "milk-pans were constantly skimmed for a length of time without his being able to unriddle the mystery, until one of his children observed something moving in one of the milk-pans, which turned out to be a snake, which, when attacked, retired to a hole at one end of the house." A shepherd on Bathurst Plains also told me the following story : " Smoking my pipe in the bush, while standing, all of a sudden I observed one of the largest snakes I ever saw coiled round my leg, without my observing it approach me ; it steadfastly stared me in the face for some moments, when all of a sudden it uncoiled itself and quietly retired. I debated with myself whether I

should kill it or not, but concluded to act upon the Christian principle, that of doing unto it as it had done unto me. I spared it." On my way to the diggings, stopping to take rest in a little cottage, where I found a mother and several children, and observing on the earthen floor a large hole very near to the fire-place, I said, "Have you any snakes in the neighbourhood?" to which she replied, "Yes. One morning, when several of my little children were around the fire, all of a sudden a snake crawled out of the hole you see there; I immediately seized a hatchet and chopped at it. I don't know whether I killed it. I never saw it again." A Nelson settler who came over with me to Sydney to try his luck at the diggings, told me the following: "Working very busily one hot day at the bottom of a deep mine, all of a sudden a snake came bang on to my shoulder. I saw what it was; the fellow showed fight, for he appeared as much surprised as myself, and although it was a blunder of his own, he took me to be the cause of his accident. I, however, got the first stroke, and dispatched the reptile."

Besides the above noxious reptiles, there are scorpions, centipedes, tarantulas, and a curious insect (I think it is) that bores into the heads of dogs, through all the different tissues, until it reaches the brain, when the dog, of course, dies. It attacks people in the same way, but they generally contrive to put a stop to its excavations before it has proceeded far. Having experienced bad weather, and finding the road scarcely walkable from Jambaroo to Kiama, and having met with bad accommodation and a drunken set of people at the inn, with the recollection of my previous day's threatened disaster, I determined to return to Wollongong with a dray, for a safe convoy through the wood. Let me now caution every stranger never to believe anything an Australian may say respecting the impossibility of missing your way. I am a very old traveller, and a very cautious one too; I have never perilled my life through being foolhardy; take my advice—never go into a wood without a guide.

EMIGRATION.
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THAT emigration is one of the grand questions of the day seems now to be almost universally admitted. That people have bettered themselves by going to the colonies cannot be doubted for a moment. I have seen in the United States of America the great change that has taken place in individuals of a certain class, who at home would be blacking boots, or acting as errand-boys, dressed in a beautiful suit of black, looking more like clergymen than otherwise, and a great deal better off than some of the unfortunate recipients of 50*l.* per annum, sitting down to dinners such as I have never seen since I visited America, and living in hotels more resembling huge palaces than anything else. When in Canada I constantly came across people, who were nobodys in England, riding in their neat conveyances on fine plank roads, drawn by a beautiful pair of horses, to and from their own acres, where they

were as comfortable and as independent as little country squires.

I have alluded to the circumstance of the majority of the Sydney merchants having risen from clerks to become possessors of great wealth. In the Nelson Settlement, New Zealand, I have conversed and visited scores of poor people who landed, some of them, without one shilling, living on their own acres, with large flocks of turkeys, ducks, geese, pigs and cows, in such abundance, as to make them as independent as ladies and gentlemen in England. When I visited the Canterbury Settlement, in June 1851, I clearly saw that the labouring men would soon become the proprietors of the soil, not from the money they took out, but from the capital hands they made use of. And I have but little doubt that such has been fully realised before this.

IGNORANCE AND POVERTY THE TWO GREAT
OBSTACLES TO EMIGRATION.

Always, on my first landing in England, whether from the colonies or from the continent

of Europe, I have been forcibly struck with the poverty-stricken and ragged appearance of our lower orders ; seeming worse off than the same class of people in any other part of the wide world. This I have felt to be the great national calamity ; all foreigners have seen it on their first landing ; and all good men have deeply regretted it. Amongst this unfortunate class may be found talents (if cultivated) that would grace the senate ; and ignorance and habits so gross, that you might ask yourself the question— is it possible that these are immortal beings ? I have a scheme, the advantage of which will not be doubted for a moment ; it will not occupy many pages in detailing to you the soundness of the system. It is this :—tell all the ignorant that they are capable of becoming valuable members of society in Australia and New Zealand, and send them there if they are willing to go. Provide all the enlightened (many of whom are too anxious to go) with a purse sufficient to land them in these beautiful countries.

I am aware that much has been done for the people of England latterly, and that they

are wonderfully improved by the exertions of great and good men : by cheap publications, and the consequent diffusion of sound and useful knowledge ; by drainage and the establishment of bath-houses ; by the facility with which they can visit distant parts of the country by the cheap trains ; by the able and powerful articles of the *Morning Chronicle*, which has taken the pains to lay before the world their true state ; by the establishment of a practical museum, where the enlightened poor can avail themselves of the lectures on difficult branches of science, made clear and divested of technicalities by those eminent men who give them ; and who are as anxious to communicate knowledge as the emigrant is to receive it. Why this is certainly a great deal to have done ; but have we done all in our power ? No ! This is but the beginning of what we have got to do. We have opened their eyes with a little education, and we must give them more. We have told them that they can be well fed in the colonies, and we have not sent them there. We have provided them with better houses to live in, but we must send them

to countries where they can get lands with better houses still. We have told them they were poor, which they knew to their sorrow, and we have not enriched them, by keeping them at home to starve. I think it will be admitted that poverty, and ignorance, and drunkenness, are, collectively, the great sources of crime; but by feeding the people first, and then educating them, we should vastly improve their morals. This has been partly proved in Australia, where many of the old convicts, who are well to do, are just as soon to be trusted as many of the immigrants.

If this be true, in sending our people to Australia or New Zealand, we should not only lessen poverty at home, but crime would decrease at the same time. What a fine field there is for the rich bishops to come forward with their subscriptions, to send out the poor people who are overcrowded in this country, to thinly populated colonies where they are much wanted, and where they would have no inducement to steal; and by so doing, religion would be served in a variety of ways. Here a number of the poor people

are so degraded by their poverty, that if there were churches for them they have no inclination to go. Besides, when a man is hungry he prefers a penny-loaf to a visit from a clergyman,—and spiritual advice, however well-intentioned, produces but little impression when given on an empty stomach. The farmer, who, at the present time, finds the poor-rate pressing so heavily upon him, would lessen those rates by a parish subscription to send the labourer out of the Union to the antipodes, where, in a few months, the poor man would have an opportunity of becoming a farmer himself. The merchant trading to the colonies is aware of the fact, that the more people there are sent out there, the greater will be the demand for his merchandise; and I have no doubt he would contribute large subscriptions. The ship-owner has an equal interest with the merchant, and I am sure he would not give grudgingly. The people of all classes are called upon to relieve by their subscriptions that which has become a great calamity to the British empire,—that of thousands of poor people crowded together in England, whilst the wool

and the grain of Australia and New Zealand must be abandoned as useless, if labourers are not quickly sent out to those colonies. If what I have previously stated were set on foot by the community at large, the Government would be compelled, as the representatives of the nation, to take up the subject and act upon it. If the people of England would only take up the question earnestly, it would soon be settled; as no rational English Government dare refuse to listen to the earnest and outside petitions of a determined people calmly and deliberately petitioning for the wrongs of suffering humanity.

That the Government has neglected Australia is too apparent, from the fact of that fine colony having no steam communication until the discovery of gold; and which probably would not have taken place for years to come, to the great injury of the Australians. But what governments have neglected to do, with all their power, there exists a hand more powerful than theirs, whose operations are silently but effectually carried out, in spite of all the puny opposition of man; and

may not the gold discovery be one of the workings of that Almighty hand, intended to carry out that which neither the people of England or the Government had done, viz., that of supplying the vast and beautiful country of Australia with all that it requires to lay the foundation of a great and future empire ; to furnish it with steam communication, which had been so long neglected ; and to provide a home for the starving people of England, and to take in hand that which that most farcical and mischievous of all companies failed in doing—the peopling of New Zealand.

ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.

Those who have large families are best qualified for the colonies, inasmuch as they require but little assistance from servants. If you take out capital to invest, and have sufficient to live upon barely in England, by all means go either to Australia or New Zealand, where you can make 10 per cent. of your money. If you take out money to buy stock, merchandise or any other article, look about you for a month or two, keep

your hands in your pockets, your eyes and ears wide open, and remember that you have got much sharper individuals to deal with than the average of English people, being old experienced hands in the colony. They will be very ready to show you good bargains, which will benefit themselves and leave you a very poor man if you do not take care. I went to New Zealand to take possession of some property at Nelson and to settle my nephew in the country. I travelled to Auckland, Wellington, and even waited for the beginning of the town of Lyttleton—as a settlement—and remained one whole year at Nelson before I concluded what to do with the boy. Quicker people will do the same thing I have no doubt in half the time equally as well. If you go to Australia to retire, and you have been accustomed to good society, persuade some individual like yourself to go along with you, as the best class of people in New South Wales are rarely met with, and they are very exclusive, and very suspicious of strangers. Working people will get the following wages with board in New South Wales:—

Shepherds	£25 to 30
Ploughmen	28 36
Blacksmiths	45 60
Coachmen	40
Grooms	30
Servants generally	30
Sailors	7 per month.
Female house-servants	20
Cooks	20
Nurse-maids	15
Laundresses	18

I have travelled from one end of the United States to the other, through the whole of Canada, and many parts of the West Indies; and I am able to assert, without fear of contradiction, that the climates of Australia and New Zealand are far more healthy and congenial to the Anglo-Saxon race.

New Zealand is one of the healthiest, one of the richest, and certainly one of the most picturesque parts of the world. You who are now going out in great numbers fresh from that country which has nursed and brought to maturity the most active race the world has ever seen, carry on with the wonted vigour which has ever characterised the Anglo-Saxon, and set a good example both to the people of New Zealand and

New South Wales, who are both together the laziest specimens of working Englishmen I ever wish to see; who in general prefer a chat to working, and a glass of grog in a public-house to a cup of tea at their own homes.

I would recommend people who can command a little capital—single or married—and who find themselves much perplexed and puzzled to keep up their position, decidedly to go out to New Zealand or New South Wales.

Gentlemen, who have nothing to do but consider how to keep up a very respectable appearance by the little assistance derived from a very mean income, I would say, Pack up and be off. If you are a dandy with good limbs and stout arms, as many of you know you have, from having surveyed them too often in the glass, and your means are too small to purchase your pretty clothes; instead of surveying yourselves in the shop windows in Regent-street, be off and look at the diggings, or go to a sheep-station, with a flannel shirt over your shoulders; and far removed from Regent-street, pretty girls, and looking-glasses, you will be perfectly astonished at the wonders you are

capable of performing as a settler. To gentlemen who are truly such, and who find the English soil too expensive for them, by all means go to the Nelson Settlement, New Zealand, where you will meet with most accomplished and refined, musical and literary, and some most agreeable people, and some as good blood as any to be found in England.

The prevailing fault in both New South Wales and New Zealand is selfishness. Men do not occupy themselves with the consideration of the best means to develop the resources of the country; they are always thinking of themselves. These would do well to take a lesson from the American of the back-woods, who frequently assists the new comer in building his log-hut without any charge; and gives him good advice without robbing him! Go and do likewise! you will meet with your reward.

NEW ZEALAND.
—♦—

It is not my intention to enter into any lengthened detail of the state of affairs in New Zealand, during the last twelve years of its eventful history ; but merely to convey some real and truthful impressions to the intending emigrants of the actual state of the different settlements, as they appeared to me. There are so many books written, describing all the events connected with its history, that it would be quite superfluous in me to travel over these old trodden paths again ; and especially as a gentleman has returned to England, after a ten years' residence in the colony, and who, I am aware, has published a book upon the subject. The few remarks made upon the settlements may be taken as truthful impressions conveyed to an old traveller, and one, I am happy to say, who is quite unconnected with any of those powers that have played such a tragical part in the murdering of a fine country,

instead of developing its various resources ; viz., the New Zealand Company, the Missionaries, and the Government.

I can only compare the colonising qualities of the above bodies to three bull-dogs, of different kinds of ferocity and appetite, suddenly pouncing upon a fine fat sheep,—each taking as much of the fine creature as he wanted, if not prevented by the greater appetite, and the more savage growl, and more powerful bite, of his ferocious neighbour. If, however, any friendship for the colony can be claimed by the above-named bodies, it is due, certainly, to the Government.

AUCKLAND.

I landed at Auckland, the capital of New Zealand, August 25th, 1850, after a most tedious, stormy voyage of five months, very near the end of their winter. The Honourable Mr. Dillon, who was Civil Secretary for some time at Auckland, returned last year to the Nelson Settlement. He informed me that the population of Auckland, including the whole of the settlement, amounted to 10,000. The town is situated on lofty hills,

and pretty little bays, consisting chiefly of wooden houses. The shops are numerous, and plentifully supplied with all the luxuries of civilised life. There are many houses in different parts of the town tastefully constructed, standing in the middle of excellent gardens, and grounds nicely ornamented, although not in all cases very well kept, as gardeners were scarce, and labour expensive. Some of these pretty villas stand on high ground, commanding lovely prospects of the many bays which form the excellent harbour of the town of Auckland.

Nothing struck me more than the improved condition of some of our English fruit-trees; they were more branched, altered in the colour of their bark, and so changed, that I could scarcely recognise them. These changes applied most especially to the apple-tree. I saw the aloe, Banana, sugar-cane, and two other plants, all tropical, which I have now forgotten, growing in the open air. The first excursion I made was to Onehunga, a distance of eight miles (passing through the pretty village of Epsom), on one of the finest and best constructed roads I ever

travelled on, but which, I was informed, cost (some portion of it, at least,) 8000*l.* per mile.

Here were to be seen sixty and seventy acre fields of fine grass, well divided with substantial stone walls, formed of the scoria, the natural rock of the country, which lies too plentifully scattered on the land, and which requires removing prior to its being cleared for artificial cultivation. The natural vegetation surrounding the town is not beautiful by any means, being very scrubby, and scarcely at all timbered, as a tree is rarely to be seen, and the appearance of the soil is anything but flattering as to richness; but when cultivated, it produces excellent crops of grain, grass, and potatoes—is admirably adapted for the kitchen-garden, as well as for the growth of the apple, pear, peach, nectarine, and plum; all of which may be seen growing most luxuriantly and abundantly. Nothing can surpass the beauty of the grass fields in this neighbourhood—hilly, undulating, with numerous herds of cattle, quietly feeding in immense numbers on land artificially cultivated, and not laid down with grass more than two years' standing, capable of maintaining,

the year round, one head of cattle, or its equivalent of six sheep. The published statistics of the settlement states that, in the year 1850, there were in cultivation 243 acres of wheat, 795 acres of oats, 134½ acres of barley, 103 acres of maize, 376 acres of hay, 267 acres of garden, 1067 of potatoes, and 5078 acres of pasture; total 8082½ acres. The stock numbers: horses, 725; horned cattle, 6803; sheep, 3281; goats, 345.

Leaving Epsom, I proceeded on to Onehunga, and delivered a letter of introduction to Major Kenney, who has the command of the pensioners, who have got a village of their own, consisting of most beautifully constructed wooden houses, with grants of land, who, with the assistance of their pensions, are enabled to live in comparative luxury and ease, and are at the same time ready to handle the sword to put down the refractory natives if it should be required. Judging from all that I could gather upon the subject, I should say that there is little likelihood of any more war between the natives and the settlers. The native New Zealander, in the Auckland country, possesses all the money-getting propensities of

the white race, by which he is surrounded; and is too much occupied in the cultivating of his land to spare the time for the bloody and unprofitable exercise of cutting throats and smashing the valuable brains of the white man. During the war, the military, anxious to put an end to it, sent a challenge to some of the natives to come and fight it out. Their reply was that they were then too busily engaged getting in their harvest, but that after they had finished, they should be most happy to have a turn with them.

I then went to Otahuhu, another village of pensioners, a distance of twelve miles from Auckland. I returned by another route, exhibiting the native tea-tree and fern, which cover the ground in every direction, forming a dreary and wild-looking country; contrasting singularly with the highly cultivated parts previously described. I passed miles of this barren district without seeing a single house or an acre of land in cultivation, and could not account for its being thus wild and unbroken so near to the town. It was explained, however, from the fact of an Archdeacon Williams, one of the

missionaries, who had got possession of it, and would not sell it; thereby putting an end to cultivation and rural industry in that part of the country.

There was a good Government House, with pleasant grounds, at Auckland, which was burnt down; after that, Sir George Grey contented himself with living in a humbler residence. I delivered a letter to Sir George Grey, who honoured me with an invitation to dine the very day I left Auckland. He is certainly not popular here; while the bishop seemed to be a favourite with them; and, in a great degree, from the fact of the bishop probably not being too fond of the Governor.

I walked down to the bishop's place, a distance of seven or eight miles from Auckland, to deliver a letter of introduction; but unfortunately he was out, and his lady indisposed. I was recommended to go at one o'clock to make sure of a dinner, being told that there were always covers laid for two or three strangers. After a long walk, during a hot day, I found my appetite at its meridian when I arrived at the bishop's place; and finding

there was no chance of the one o'clock dinner, I said to the person who took my letter, "Be good enough to show me where I can get a bit of bread." The fellow made application at a house where I heard the musical intonations of a beef-steak singing loudly in a frying-pan, when a very lovely woman came to the door; my *cicerone* said, "This gentleman is hungry." He was a native New Zealander. I said, "My good woman, permit me to have the contents of that frying-pan, for I am famishing;" to which she agreed. She afterwards took out of the cupboard half a bottle of wine, which soon had the honour of being M. T. After this, I journeyed on foot to Auckland, more like a quadruped racer than a biped, and as elastically as if I had been made of India-rubber and Geneva watch-springs. I had the pleasure of dining with Major Kenney, who commands the pensioners, and who lives in one of the best houses in the settlement; the Colonial Secretary, a very good naturalist; the Brigade-Major; and at the mess of the 58th Regiment.

The meteorological observations show that in

Auckland, during the year 1850, there were 183 days without rain, 146 showery days, and 36 wet days. The highest temperature was 87, in February; the lowest, 34, in July.

The settlement has a great grievance to contend with: viz., that of the sale of land; for between the natives and the Government, both proprietors of a vast extent of land, not agreeing as to terms, the sale of land is with difficulty effected. It has suffered, also, two successive drains of its population—to the El Dorados of California and Australia. Notwithstanding all this, and the loss of the seat of government, there is still reserved for it a successful future. It boasts now of a steam-boat of fifty tons burthen, which will tend not a little to its commercial advantages, as well as the convenience of its inhabitants. In conclusion, it is necessary to inform the reader that Auckland was not founded by the New Zealand Company, but by the British Government. I quitted Auckland at the latter end of the month of September, and arrived at Wellington in the beginning of November.

WELLINGTON.

The town of Wellington, with the Settlement, contains a population of 5000 ; it is delightfully situated in a perfectly land-locked harbour, surrounded with high hills. The land in the immediate neighbourhood, with but few exceptions, is so mountainous as to be quite unfit for either agriculture or grazing purposes, but well adapted for goats, which may be seen in different parts surrounding the town, with an occasional cow for a companion. The valley of the Hutt, about twelve miles from the town, is exceedingly rich and heavily timbered ; and great numbers of acres have been cleared by the industry of the settlers at a very great and serious cost. It has a very fine road through it, with a couple of good inns, where I found excellent accommodation. The valley of the Hutt is almost entirely laid down in farms, and produces most excellent crops of most kinds of grain. The best land has been sold as high as 10*l.* per acre. It has a very serious obstacle to contend with, from the river which runs through it not containing itself within certain

boundaries or banks, but in many parts altering its course so as to take possession of cultivated lands, and thereby proving itself a very bad neighbour.

Wellington is at present the seat of government, which has greatly contributed to make it a town of increasing importance. The inhabitants consist principally of merchants, who are doing pretty well. It is within twenty-four hours sail of the new Settlement of Canterbury, and about the same distance from Nelson. The wind blows here in strong and continuous gales, and so powerfully upon one occasion as to take a small boat which was lying upon the beach into the air, which, on its return to terra firma, fell on a poor old woman and killed her. Beyond the Hutt is the Wairarapa Valley, the Squatting district of the Wellington Settlement. I was informed that the sheep of that district amounted to 40,000. On the road to Porirua is to be seen the most romantic and beautifully wooded scenery possible, bearing a strong resemblance to many parts of Norway. Here a good deal of land is well fenced and laid down with grass, and well stocked with cattle and horses.

Wellington has had all the difficulties to contend with consequent upon town-making, which generally begins with ruin to a good many, while the few are only fortunate. It has good society; its inhabitants emigrated principally from England, and not from Sydney, which latter place chiefly supplied the town of Auckland with its first population. Many of its houses form delightful residences, with pretty gardens in front; and some of them are as comfortably furnished as houses in England. Wellington boasts of its Mechanics' Institute, races, casino, a very fine hospital, and a Scientific Society, with Sir George Grey for its president. Conversazioni are held at Government House, where all its members occasionally assemble.

NELSON.

The New Zealand coast on every side presents mountain ranges so high, and so formed, as fully to entitle it to the rank of being one of the most mountainous countries in the world. The traveller, as he approaches the Settlement of Nelson, will perceive enough of mountain ranges,

but he will also observe in a certain part that the mountains lose their lofty character and gradually descend until they assume the title of hills; the hills lessen by degrees, until they become transformed into occasional table-lands; and the table-lands, with other slight elevations, at last condescend to form a district as flat and as level as any to be found in England. This is the feature of the country round Nelson, and a very fortunate one it is, for had it been otherwise, the plough would not have cut through the many fertile acres it has done in the Wairau Plains, a fine district of country, chiefly agricultural, containing 11,000 acres of land, surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges, except where it is washed by the sea; which part is as marshy, flat, and level as any of the Lincolnshire coast.

The stranger, as he approaches the town of Nelson, will be much struck with a long neck of land running parallel to the coast, being joined to the main land at one extremity and separated from it at the other; this separation is the entrance to the harbour, while the remaining portion of it forms the harbour by shutting out the sea. This

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long narrow neck of land is called the Boulder Bank (so named from its being principally formed of boulders), varying from two to five miles from the main land, and is, perhaps, ten or eleven miles in length ; it is sufficiently elevated, so as to be seen at a distance of a few miles, contrasts very singularly with the high mountains which form the coast line, to which it runs parallel, and is separated from it by that portion of the water which forms the harbour. This boulder bank has puzzled the Nelson people very much, in attempting to account satisfactorily for the causes which have produced it. The manner of its formation seems to be similar to those of sand-banks on many parts of the Lincolnshire coast ; on one side, by the action of the waves of the sea, and from the circumstance of its being near to the coast, where the mountains are very high and steep, in a country where rain falls frequently for three days in succession ; and where numerous rivulets would bring down boulders and mountain débris, in sufficient quantity to bank it up on that side next the coast on the main land : if this slow accumulation of boulders

is not sufficient to account for its elevation above the sea, the volcanic action which has been going on, and is now going on, in New Zealand, will enable the geologist to look to that quarter for its cause of elevation.

The Settlement of Nelson, in 1851, contained more than 4000 souls; and, probably, 2000 of these might comprise the population of the town. The town is delightfully situated in occasional level parts, which soon rise into undulations, then into hills, and hills into mountains, where pretty houses, with good gardens, may be seen scattered over this ever-changing surface, until the mountains commence, and where the limits of the town are well defined. A river runs through the town, but is not all navigable, being always in an extreme state of exhaustion, or in that of overflowing. The part called the Wood, next to the sea, is perfectly level, and has an exceedingly rich soil; where crops of grain, capital orchards, and good gardens, may be seen growing in the most luxuriant manner. Some of the houses have crawled as high up the mountains' side as is consistent with the comfort of the occupier;—

possessing, however, the advantage of overlooking their neighbour, and commanding a magnificent view of the harbour and sea. The town, from not having its streets quite filled up with houses in many parts, and extending over a wide area, presents the appearance of a very large and lovely village, rather than a town. It possesses a very good reading-room, and an excellent library; a gaol, which is almost useless, from the few inmates to be found there; a good church, hospital, and chapels of various denominations; and one of the best hotels in New Zealand for comfort and cheapness. In the streets may be seen the policeman, in his blue dress and hard-crowned hat, more frequently engaged in talking over the news of the day than in flattening the noses of riotous subjects, which is very rarely required in this peaceful settlement. At times, however, he has long journeys to perform into the country, to look after distant rogues. On his return, he may be seen entertaining idle people with all the varied incidents of his journey, and laying down the law, as if he were one of the great judges of the district.

Near to the town are two narrow valleys, where the mountains stand upright, in all their sublimity, and so near together, as only just to leave room for a house and garden to be snugly seated between them. These residences are most peculiarly romantic, but cheerful and comfortable at the same time. There is a good road through the hills to the Wairau Plains, to the village of Richmond, about eight miles from Nelson. A conveyance runs three or four times a-week from Nelson to Richmond.

Richmond is the centre of a fine agricultural district, studded with fine farms, where a poor man is never seen;—where many a common labourer started life without a sixpence, and who is now possessed of his own acres, surrounded with sheep and oxen, large flocks of turkeys, ducks, and geese, cocks and hens, and scores of wild fat pigs in the bush to be had for hunting for them; and where he is too independent to work for a gentleman, having become a species of country squire himself, living upon poultry three or four times a-week, and riding as good a horse as any gentleman in the settlement. The

labourers of this settlement have become so comparatively independent, that the gentlemen are compelled, in many instances, to take their place; in plain language, a man must not be nice about what he does, and be ready to turn his hand to anything. A gentleman was hard pressed, and wanted some assistance from a working man of the name of Thomson; instead of saying, "Joe Thomson, you come and lend me a hand to-morrow"—it was, "Mr. Thomson, will you do me the favour to come and assist me to-morrow?"

This was said while I was paying a visit to a friend of mine. Mr. Thomson, after making a great favour of his labour, would come very late, leaving off very early—probably taking an hour in the middle of the day for himself, without asking the permission of his employer—and pocket his three shillings for it. In another part of the settlement a shepherd (a very rough one too) who rode a very beautiful horse, said to me—"I wish, when you get to London, you would send over a batch of Peat's saddles; I should like to have one, and I could sell the remainder at a

good profit." Peat is, I believe, one of the first makers in London. The labourer would do well to go to Nelson for the benefit of himself, as well as to lend a hand to the stock-owner and the farmer.

To show, on the other hand, that there is a good understanding between the labourer and the gentry: a gentleman farming in the Wairau, found his corn ripening so quick, that there was a chance of a considerable loss if additional hands were not employed—the neighbours who could assist (chiefly originally working men) all came to the rescue of the corn-crop, and got it in at a stroke. Many of the working men obtain thirty and forty pounds, with board and lodging besides, or rations, as they term them in that part of the world: and servants of all kinds are wanted, and can obtain good wages. The people of Nelson have had great difficulties to contend with soon after they took possession of their lands as pioneer settlers. The settlement, at one time, was in such a deplorable condition, that I have heard of some people eating sow-thistles; these days, however, have long since

passed away ; and it is due to the Nelson men to claim the honour of making that settlement known in London, from the wool it has exported to that market. All the sheep-farmers are doing well, and, in a few years, many of them will have realised a sufficiency to enable them to return to England. Motueka is another part of the settlement, thirty miles from Nelson by land ; it contains a population of many hundreds of people ; it has 7000 or 8000 acres of the finest possible land ; forming altogether a most agreeable place of abode. The Wairau is the Squatting district of the settlement, and is about 100 miles from the town. It is one of the finest valleys I ever saw in all my travels, and where everything is in a complete state of nature. The valley itself consists entirely of luxuriant native grass without a single tree, with a width varying from one mile to several, bounded on both sides by alpine mountains not at all dissimilar to Switzerland, where the trees of New Zealand flourish in all their beauty on these summits, forming a striking contrast to the level grass valley below. Indeed it is a scene combining a comfortable

English grass field, an American prairie, and the mountains of Switzerland, all at one single glance.

There are thousands of quail in the valley, where the shepherd sometimes knocks one down, as it rises, with his whip ; or, more frequently, his shepherd-dog catches him a couple for dinner. There are thousands of fine wild pigs in the mountains only waiting to be caught. What a place for either a poor English gentleman, or a half-fed English labourer!! The number of sheep in the Wairau amounted, when I left, to 120,000; besides oxen and horses in immense numbers. The road to the Wairau is one of nature's roads, with the exception of ten miles, which have been cut through a wild wood, an extremely difficult one too, either for man or beast, from the stumps and roots of trees, gullies and streamlets, mud and bog, ups and downs, which every one must pass through, or into, who intends to visit the beautiful sheep district. The squatter, when he starts to his station (that is, where either he or his shepherd resides), takes a kettle, a pair of blankets (his only bed), tea, sugar, bread, bacon,

and is fully equipped for a repast, which he is frequently compelled to take, gipsy-fashion, until he reaches the various sheep-stations, where, by a general agreement entered into by themselves, he claims hospitality without payment; turns his horse adrift on the wild-grass plains with a long rope round his neck, unrolls his blankets, and perhaps sleeps on the floor, if there is not a more suitable place, and sleeps as soundly as if he were in a bed. I have visited Canada, the United States, the West Indies, and New South Wales, and every county in England but two, and the whole of Europe with slight exceptions, and I have never met with any locality where society was better, in a place of the same size, and the climate finer than the Nelson Settlement in New Zealand.

THE CANTERBURY SETTLEMENT.

Before leaving New Zealand I was very anxious to visit the Canterbury Settlement to see how they were getting on with their new town; as the news of the arrival of several ships having on board the first settlers had reached Nelson, I got

on board the brig *Torrington* bound for Port Cooper, in the beginning of June, the winter at the antipodes, and after having passed through Cook's Strait we caught a fair gale, which blew as New Zealand gales generally do, to use the sailors' expression, "as hard as they can."

The great objection to travelling in New Zealand is the exorbitant charge exacted for a short voyage, and also the length of time in performing it. Since my departure from Nelson I have heard that they are about to establish a steamboat, which I am sure will be of immense value to the colony. I have previously stated that the coast of New Zealand is almost invariably mountainous; but on nearing Bank Peninsula, which contains the harbour of Port Cooper, I was much pleased to see that portion of the country present hills of moderate height, beautifully grassed, having altogether a very agreeable and inviting aspect. On entering the harbour I was much struck with the fine country which surrounded it, here consisting of little valleys gradually sloping down to the water's edge, there a headland showing beautifully horizontal strata;

in other parts the hills rising to a great height, well green with native grass, contributed to render the scene such as was well calculated to cheer the heart of a Canterbury pilgrim after his long sea voyage.

The harbour although a good one is not perfect, as the wind blowing in a certain direction brings in a roll from the ocean; and the anchorage is bad also: it was well tested during my stay, as furious gales of wind blew for several days together, which drove seven vessels out of the twelve then lying in harbour, from their anchors, making total wrecks of two or three, and damaging very seriously the others; a most unfortunate circumstance in the early history of the Canterbury Settlement. But this disastrous state of things I was informed could be remedied by putting down moorings of sufficient strength to hold vessels of any size.

The town of Lyttelton stands at the foot of a high mountain, some part of it is level, and others disagreeably hilly, so as to make the agreeable recreation of calling upon neighbouring friends a fatigue during the hot weather, and extremely

difficult of access to some of the straggling residents ; so much so, that in walking to look at some rather pretty residences at the outside of the town, if I had not chosen my steps most carefully, I should have taken involuntarily a cold bath by tumbling into the sea before reaching my destination. The aspect of the town is altogether romantic from the mountains behind it and the harbour in front. This mountain is a very serious obstacle to the prosperity of the town and country, as it is the direct road to Christchurch, which is expected to become a place of importance from its being situated in the centre of the plain, where the college is to be, and where some of the best settlers reside, at a short distance from the town, and where many of the important functionaries of the settlement are already located.

I went to ———, a boarding-house, which I was told was one of the most comfortable in the place. These comforts were comprised in the following curious catalogue of enjoyments, viz. :—

1. A very narrow ladder to ascend to the sleeping apartments ; an ascent more suitable for a monkey than an awkward biped.
2. Bed-rooms instead

of containing a single individual were decorated all round with strong wooden shelves, consisting of two tier, each shelf containing a man as a substitute for a bed; when the shelves or bunks were all occupied, then the gentlemen horizontalised themselves on the floor, wrapped up in a blanket. 3. Holes in the roof of the house, admitting both wind and rain, not only into the room, but into the bed; and not stopping here, but usually administering a cold, wet air, and water bath to those extremely sensitive and inviolable organs, the eyes and nose; every puff of which seemed strongly scented with influenza. 4. The extreme difficulty of getting out of bed, especially in the dark, without poking your big toe into some gentleman's small eye, as the room was so thickly covered with sleeping Apollos as to form a novel kind of patch-work carpet, especially as the coats and waistcoats of various hues might be seen filling up the very small interval between each gentleman. 5. The dining-room, capable of containing about twenty people, generally having double that number—with the weather cold, and the roads as dirty as any

Lincolnshire fen of olden time—all crowding together to a small fire-place, not furnishing warmth for more than three persons at once, and those three so near the fire as to be roasted on one side of the leg, while the other was not cooked at all, or, to use the more natural expression, was quite underdone! This singular state of things might have been amusing to an old traveller capable of roughing it, but I was unfortunately an invalid for the whole of the time that I remained, and so seriously affected as to believe at times that my last remains would be deposited in the town of Lyttelton. Nevertheless, I enjoyed it when the short intervals of good health allowed me; but finding myself getting no better, I must say that I bade adieu to the comfortable boarding-house for a short time, with no small degree of delight, to make a short tour to Christchurch.

The ascent of the mountain which divides Lyttelton from Christchurch was so steep as to make me stop every five minutes to breathe; this afforded me occasional views of the town and harbour, which are picturesque in the

extreme. On approaching the summit, I met with some very perfect specimens of augite, hornblende, trachyte, porphyry, and other volcanic rocks; and had the finest possible view of the great plain extending to the ever-visible mountains of New Zealand. On my way to Christchurch, I came to a ferry, where they charged me sixpence for a passage over the river; this I considered exorbitant, especially when I pictured to myself some poor old woman suddenly finding her stock of sugar exhausted, and consequently requiring to make a trip into the town for a pound of the sweet material. This sixpenny ferry was calculated to make the sugar so dear as to induce frugal old women to drink bitter tea,—a thing they did not bargain for when they left the shores of old England.

The Settlement of Canterbury was six months old when I visited it in June, 1851, and its population at that time amounted to near 2000. I made the visit to ascertain if I could arrange with Mr. Godby to settle my nephew as a sheep-farmer on terms more advantageous there than in the Nelson Settlement, as well as to gratify

myself in being an eye-witness to the curious and difficult process of modern town-making. After having crossed the ferry, I came to a carriage-road half-finished, clearly showing, from the cuttings made on both sides of it, that the Canterbury soil was one of the richest kind. I looked in vain for the cultivated spots, and my eyes became weary with the painful search for the signs of progress and vitality. No ploughs to be seen, no labourers at work; scarcely a head of cattle was visible. I questioned everybody I met as to what the people were doing, and what they intended to do, in order to have every possible information relative to the progress of the settlement; and after arriving at Christchurch, where there were to be seen some excellent houses, but the land extremely wet and damp, from the immense quantity of rain which had fallen, and from the drainage being bad, there I ascertained to my great surprise and regret that only one acre of land had been sown with wheat; and as the season for sowing was far advanced, it augured very badly for the industry of the settlers.

The plains, although damp and wet from the

quantity of rain which had fallen, everywhere exhibited a fine rich soil, only requiring industry and capital to work it. I took the liberty of calling upon Mr. Deans, a highly respectable settler, who, with a few others, some years ago, clearly saw that the plains of Port Cooper were destined to become, at some future period, a populous place and the seat of a town. Mr. Deans had seen his prediction fully realised; and must have felt not a little flattered at the correctness of his anticipations in regard to Port Cooper, especially after having passed many years of solitude on the lonely plains; he could, however, now boast of two thousand neighbours, all of whom, more or less, contributed to make him a man of fortune. I met a number of settlers at Mr. Deans' house, who all appeared educated and well-bred people. He very kindly took me to see Mr. Russell, the great leading settler, who had built an excellent house, and who was colonising in the right way, from his possessing two of the best qualifications for a colonist—viz., plenty of money and great energy; and from what I could see of Mrs. Russell, and from what

I heard afterwards, I should conclude that she is in every way calculated to become a heroine in the settlement of Canterbury. I there fell in with a nephew of Sir Gilbert Heathcoate, and a Mr. Brittan. The latter appeared to be well-organised in every way for his arduous enterprise of settling.

I learnt from people fully competent to give an opinion, that not one in ten of the settlers had money sufficient to go on their lands, whilst the little that remained to them was, of course, expended in eating and drinking; and that those who were colonising, with every possible industry and energy, and working their lands on the plain, found the mountain previously described perfectly impassable for a dray or cart, and were, consequently, compelled to send their luggage, furniture, and implements, by sea; which method of transit ought to have been reasonable, but for the unwarrantable and unjustifiable extortion practised by owners of vessels upon the poor settlers. I was informed, upon unquestionable authority, that plenty of land could be bought at 1*l.* per acre, after having cost 3*l.* in England. I had heard in Nelson from an old gentleman, who

had visited the settlement, that they boasted of being a section of English society, in contradistinction, I suppose, to Auckland and Wellington, which might have some settlers from New South Wales. I can safely make the remark, that the lower portion of the English section which I saw at Port Cooper, would do well, and vastly improve themselves, too, if they would take pattern from the well-behaved and orderly people, of the same class, in the town of Sydney. I conversed with many people as to their unanimity upon religious points, and I was able to ascertain, beyond all doubt, that many of the people laughed at the thought of a town, containing a number of people, all of the same way of thinking upon religious matters; and there were scores ready to go into chapels of any other denomination. I also ascertained, to my perfect astonishment, that the Church of England was represented in Port Cooper by a batch of complete Puseyites. I invited Mr. Deans to dine with me at the boarding-house previously mentioned, in order to give him an idea of the nature and qualifications of the numerous settlers

who frequented that establishment. After dinner I called upon Mr. A. for a comic song; upon Mr. B. for a recitation; upon Mr. C. for a sentimental song; all of which were so well executed, that had the Canterbury pilgrims required a theatre for the commencement of their settlement, many of those gentlemen were eminently qualified to tread the boards; and the great majority were spending their money, singing, smoking, and enjoying themselves in idleness, instead of having on a flannel shirt, and a good heavy spade in hand.

The system of town-making all of a sudden, upon the Wakefield plan, or by whatever other name it is designated, which had its commencement in the formation of the town of Adelaide, South Australia, has proved itself a signal failure. Adelaide, Wellington, and Nelson have suffered in such a manner, as to be a reproach to that system as long as those towns occupy a site on the face of the earth. The hardships and utter ruin which most of the earlier settlers have endured, have been better known to the struggling colonists than to their friends in England. It possesses,

however, one great merit—if a merit it can be called,—that it must form the *nucleus* of a settlement ; inasmuch as it effects the ruin of the first settlers, who resemble poor wounded birds, incapable of returning to their native nests, and compelled to remain to take all the chances of struggling up hill to competence or fortune ;—one or other of which may certainly be obtained, if pursued with a steady and energetic spirit, and with a hard-working hand.

THE END.

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